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75¢

Delta-Korean Air seal joint venture

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Weeks before the announced May 6, 2018, pullout of Delta Air Lines from Saipan and Palau, a joint venture agreement with Korean Air was sealed to accommodate travelers from the Micronesia region and connect them to the U.S. mainland.

Masaru Morimoto, Delta vice president for Japan, Micronesia, and the Philippines, said that Delta Air Lines is committed to serving the CNMI. "The new joint venture with Korean Air will allow us to

link the CNMI with same day connectivity to the continental U.S. through the brand-new Incheon Airport Terminal 2

featuring the best-in-class amenities," he added.

To avail of this, though, See **DELTA on Page 4**

Public Lands: New Mariana Resort lease within a year

» **Marpi hotel lease to expire in 9 days**
» **DPL to seek operating agreement for facility**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public

Lands is expecting a resolution to Mariana Resort & Spa's expiring lease within a year as they continue to

See **LANDS on Page 4**



BEA CABRERA

Marie Lizama, sales manager for Delta Guam, speaks in front of business leaders at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting early this month.

LIBRARY FAIR

Children and their parents register during the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's first Community Mobile Information Literacy Fair last April 7.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Visitor arrivals flat at 53K in March

Visitor arrivals to the Marianas dipped 2 percent in March 2018 compared to March

2017. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota registered 53,714 visitors in March 2018, compared to 54,841 visitors in

March 2017.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 13 percent to 25,081 visitors, yet the country re-

See **VISITOR on Page 4**

Justice building closed for over a month now

» **Judiciary needs \$7M to replace main air-conditioning system, mold remediation**
» **Process to hire company to conduct mold assessment not moving forward until funding is secured**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Guma Hustisia building in Susupe is still closed to the public for over a month now, and its re-opening date remains uncertain as the Judiciary

ry needs an estimated \$7 million to remedy a mold problem and to replace the 22-year-old main air-conditioning system.

CNMI Judiciary director of courts Sonia A. Camacho said yesterday that their goal is to

See **JUSTICE on Page 4**

INSIDE

BUSINESS

A jet blew an engine at 32,000 feet and got hit by shrapnel that smashed a window.

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WORLD

A Syrian envoy says UN security team has visited alleged attack site.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Stormy Daniels injects fresh mystery into the story of the president, the fixer and the porn star.

PAGE 20



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Local

Domenech visits American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula are in American Samoa this week where they have joined in the festivities to celebrate the 118th anniversary of Flag Day. “Today’s celebration is a

display of American Samoa’s patriotism and commitment to the American Family,” said Domenech. “It pays deference to the traditional forefathers of American Samoa who had the foresight and wisdom to forge a lifetime partnership with the American family.” We are all part of the American family.”

Domenech’s schedule began as soon as he arrived in American Samoa over the weekend with a special visit to the Manu’a Islands where he visited the Fitiuta and Faleasao elementary schools, the American Samoa Power Authority power plant and solar farm, Manu’a High School, the health dispensary, and the Faleasao wharf.

The Flag Day official ceremonies kicked off with a special ava ceremony hosted by the traditional leaders with Domenech as a special guest.

He met separately with Gov. Lolo Moliga and Lt. Gov. Mauga Lemanu where he signed over \$10.6 million in infrastructure funds to support infrastructure projects at the wharf, hospital, and schools in the territory. The funding also included technical and maintenance assistance for training and youth conservation awareness programs. He also had meetings with Senate President Gaoteote Palaie, House Speaker Savali Ale, Chief Justice Michael Kruse, and other prominent government leaders.

The assistant secretary was briefed by Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency leadership on the island on the status of recovery efforts and also toured some of the sites damaged by Cyclone Gita.

His trip to American Samoa concluded with more visits to other OIA-funded project sites on the island of Tutuila such as the LBJ Hospital, the new service wharf, and the shipyard.

He also visited the Starkist Cannery, a critical economic driver for the territory.

“The opportunity to visit American Samoa, meet with its leaders, tour the beautiful island, and experience first-hand the amazing hospitality and generosity of the people, only reinforces my commitment to strengthening relationships and friendships, and doing all I can to support the economic and social growth of American Samoa,” said Domenech. (PR)

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OAG motion to add traffic charge against cop granted

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court granted yesterday the Office of the Attorney General's motion to file traffic charge against a police officer who crashed his car while allegedly intoxicated, resulting in serious injuries by his girlfriend.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the order after hearing assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr., and Dixon Kwon's counsel, Charity Hodson.

Camacho set the bench trial of Police Officer 1 Kwon for July 30, 2018.

The second amended information charged Kwon with seven traffic charges: driving while under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more, driving while under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving causing bodily injury, two counts of fleeing the scene of an accident, failure to have motor vehicle liability insurance while operating a vehicle on a public highway, and failure to have motor vehicle liability insurance in possession while operating a vehicle on a public highway.

In the government's motion, Glass said the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure permits an information to be amended at any time before verdict or finding if no additional or different offense is charged and if substantial rights of the defendant are not prejudiced.

Glass said in this case, the government asserts that amending the information does not include a new offense, but merely clarifies the two different ways in which the illegal conduct is alleged to have occurred.

The first amended information charged Kwon with six traffic charges.

In Kwon's opposition, Hodson said the court should deny the OAG's motion because it has failed to provide the information needed not only for Kwon to respond to the request, but also because the court lacks the information required to even consider it.

According to Glass, on July 22, 2017 on Saipan,

Kwon, while under the influence of alcohol, drove his vehicle into a tree, injuring Deedra Santos.

Kwon allegedly failed to

stop at the scene of the accident and failed to provide medical assistance to the injured Santos.

Police said Kwon was driv-

ing his Nissan car when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree near the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

When officers arrived, Kwon was not at the scene, but the injured Santos was there.

Kwon was an off-duty DUI

officer for DPS at the time of the accident. He is currently assigned with DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, *Saipan Tribune* learned.



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‘A fearless woman who served our country faithfully’

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The passing of former first lady Barbara Bush yesterday prompted mourning thousands of miles away from the mainland U.S.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres directed that flags in the CNMI be flown at half-staff in respect for the wife of former President George H.W. Bush.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) expressed his condolences to the Bush family. Although he did not

meet the former first lady,

“...Andrea and I nevertheless extend our deepest condolences to the family of former President George H. W. Bush for the loss of the family matriarch. We shall keep her and the entire Bush family in our prayers,” said Sablan.

He said both the late former first lady and he shared the same goals in promoting literacy.

“She believed that if more people knew how to read and write, ‘we would be closer to solving so many other prob-

lems our country faces,’” he said, quoting her, and adding that he made it a personal project to send surplus books from the Library of Congress to schools, public libraries, dialysis centers, the *Man’amko* Center, and other venues in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) joined the rest of the nation. “As part of the American family, we join so many of our fellow citizens in mourning the passing of former first lady Barbara Bush. We keep the Bush family in our

thoughts and prayers,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Barbara Bush, who founded the nonprofit Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, passed away at 92 and is survived by her husband George H.W. Bush, her sons George W. Bush, Neil, Marvin, and Jeb Bush, daughter Dorothea Bush Koch, and her 17 grandchildren, CNN reported.

“I am saddened to learn of the passing of former first lady Barbara Bush. Mrs. Bush was a fearless woman who served our country faithfully. She was

a staunch advocate for literacy and education,” said Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) in a statement.

“Mrs. Bush was loyal in carrying out her duties as first lady and always inspired me through her volunteerism. I join our nation and the people of Guam in mourning her loss. My thoughts and prayers are with her family,” she said.

A statement from the Republican National Committee chair Ronna McDaniel expressed the committee’s

sympathy.

“Barbara Bush was known for her immeasurable kindness and generosity as first lady, mother, wife, grandmother, and great-grandmother. An entire nation loved her and admired her unfailing faith,” she said, adding that they were “heartbroken” by the news.

“Barbara Bush’s memory lives on through the love of her family. We at the RNC are praying for peace and blessings for the entire Bush family,” she added.

LANDS

From Page 1

discuss the parameters of a new lease agreement with sole bidder Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, DPL real estate division director Rachel Roque said DPL is preparing to issue another request for proposal, or RFP, for a “hotel golf resort operating agreement.”

“A new lease has not been awarded at this time, however, DPL...is preparing to announce an RFP by close of next week for a ‘hotel golf resort operating agreement’ to operate and manage, as well as maintain the entire facility,” she said, adding that the agreement was not for a lease.

“DPL expects the RFP process to be completed in [about] 90 days,” she said, adding that Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., the company that owns Mariana Resort, may participate in the RFP for the agreement.

Mariana Resort’s 40-year lease on public land where the hotel sits ends on April 30, 2018. The lease is the maximum allowed for public land under the CNMI Constitution.

The maximum amount of years includes the 25-year initial lease agreement with the company, as well as the additional 15-year extension.

Roque explained that in 2015, an RFP was announced on the public land leased by Mariana Resort, since entertaining extensions were considered illegal due to the constitutional limit of a maxi-

mum of 40 years, inclusive of the extension. She said Kan Pacific was allowed to participate in the bidding process; however, only IPI responded to the RFP.

The hotel golf resort operating agreement, according to Roque, would have a one-year term, a period which she believes is sufficient for DPL to come up with a draft lease agreement with IPI for the Legislature’s blessing.

Roque added that land leases over five hectares requires the blessing of the Legislature before executing the lease agreement.

“DPL is confident that it will successfully negotiate a lease that continues to benefit the Northern Marianas descent in the next year,” she said.

Roque told *Saipan Tribune*

that DPL’s initial plan was to finalize terms of lease with IPI. With that yet to happen, she explained that entering a temporary one-year hotel golf resort operating agreement was the backup, while announcing an invitation to bid for maintenance and security services would be their second backup plan.

She added the maintenance and security services ITBs are “currently being announced” and, if contracted, would only be on a retainer basis, meaning the agreement between DPL and the contractor could be terminated anytime.

“DPL will ensure that operations and maintenance do not cease while negotiating a lease or conducting any processes to secure a most beneficial lease,” Roque said.

DELTA

From Page 1

travelers from Saipan and Palau must travel to Guam first.

According to Hiroko Okada, from the corporate communications department of Delta Air Lines, although Korean Air currently does not serve the Saipan market, they are looking for ways to make it possible.

“On Saipan, Korean Air does not serve the market. However,

we are investigating other options for connecting Saipan to our network. We do not have details to share at present but we’ll let you know when we have something,” she said.

“In Guam, we have already loaded Delta code shares on Guam and Incheon and Guam and Busan with convenient, same-day connectivity with the continental U.S. through Incheon Airport Terminal 2,” she added.

Marie Lizama, sales manager for Delta Guam, speaking

in front of business leaders at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting earlier this month, said the joint venture is already in place.

“You just need to check with your travel agency and this may not be on the website but your agency should be able to price that on their local/global distribution system,” she added.

Delta’s decision to end its flight service to Saipan and Palau in February was due to “unsustainable pressure” in-

cluding lower demand in the Micronesia market. The announcement came a month after the airline discontinued its flight service between Narita and Guam.

Okada assured SkyMiles members that Korean Air will accommodate them.

“SkyMiles can be used and earned on Korean Air, and soon will benefit from MQM (earned miles on Delta marketed flights) earning as well, through our new joint venture,” she added.

VISITOR

From Page 1

tained its position as the top performing source market. This decline is largely due to the suspension of the Incheon-Saipan service by Eastar Jet and Busan-Saipan service by Asiana Airlines since October 2017. Jin Air has also temporarily suspended its Incheon-Saipan service until October 2018 but is considering possibilities to operate chartered flights from Korea to Saipan.

Arrivals from China grew 16 percent compared to March 2017 to 19,856 visitors. The MVA’s aggressive marketing tactics are the main contributor to the continued increase in arrivals from China. Steady airlift from four cities is a key

factor that will continue to help maintain and boost arrivals from this large market. MVA efforts over four months with Brighten Travel, Century Tours, Zhejiang New World, SPITS, Hong Kong Express and media to promote the 2018 Saipan Marathon culminated in March with extensive exposure among sports and marathon fans and 232 runners from China, a significantly larger number than the 2017 race.

Arrivals from Japan posted a second consecutive month of growth, inching 2 percent higher than March 2017 at 5,004 visitors. An increase of 22 additional seats daily since November 2017 and continued strong marketing has contributed to the overall increase in arrivals.

“An announcement is ex-

pected imminently on which airline will launch regular scheduled service from Japan,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “In the meantime, a Korea-based LCC has announced plans to launch 23 flights from Tokyo-Narita in July and August and possibly an additional 22 flights in September. Talks are ongoing with other airlines to launch direct flights from other cities in Japan.”

Economic highlights

According to central bank data in South Korea, foreign currency deposits at banks dropped for the second straight month in February as the U.S. dollar strengthened.

The average USD/won exchange rate in March was

1,070.38 won, a slight decrease from the previous rate of 1,080.07 won in February.

In China, the Consumer Price Index of February 2018 saw an increase of 2.9 percent compared to 2017. This shows an uptick in inflation but is still well within healthy economic guidelines. Currency exchange was influenced at the end of the month due to the much-publicized trade war between the US and China. The Yuan now shows signs of strengthening.

Economic growth momentum in Japan from 2017 appears to have partially carried over into Q1 of this year. Monthly average rate for U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange in January 2018 was 107.98, compared to 111.07 in January 2018. **(PR)**

JUSTICE

From Page 1

reopen Guma Hustisia or the House of Justice at the earliest time possible.

“Reopening depends on a working air-conditioning system and remediating the mold in the building,” Camacho said.

The courts director disclosed that the current estimated budget is \$4.4 million to replace the air-conditioning system and \$2.6 million for mold remediation.

The building has remained closed to the public since March 16.

Last March 27, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Bureau of Environmental Health confirmed the discovery of mold in the building.

Camacho said mold remediation efforts include replacing carpets in courtrooms and offices, digitizing affected documents and files, replacing acoustics wall panels in the courtrooms and acoustical ceiling boards, retaining industrial hygienist professionals, and other measures.

As to the question whether there is a company currently working on the mold problem, Camacho said the Judiciary has begun the process of selecting a company to perform a mold assessment, but they are unable to move forward until funding is secured.

“For over a month, the Judiciary has been collaborating with both the Legislature and Executive Branch to secure funding. The Judiciary has been assured that funding is forthcoming,” she said.

On criticism that the Judiciary’s negligence was a factor in the closure, Camacho said the main air-conditioning system is over 22 years old and for such an equipment to last beyond its estimated useful life, with the unrelenting tropical elements, is a testament that the Judiciary has taken extraordinary measures over the years.

“The Judiciary does not allocate funding for itself. Rather, the CNMI Constitution requires the chief justice to submit the Judiciary’s annual budget request to the Legislature,” Camacho said.

Once such a budget is submitted, she explained, the Legisla-

ture, with the Executive’s input, determines how much funding the Judiciary will receive for the fiscal year, which must then be approved by the governor.

Camacho said the Judiciary has asked for funds for mold remediation and air-conditioning repairs and maintenance in previous budget submissions.

In the Judiciary’s budget request for fiscal year 2018, they asked for \$104,000 for dehumidifiers and UV lights to fight mold problems.

She said among other preventive measures, they also requested \$257,408 for repair and maintenance, including for air-conditioning, of the Judiciary buildings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Camacho said their total budget request for personnel, equipment supplies, and overall operation of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Judiciary Administrative Office, and Law Revision Commission was \$8,293,053, but they were given just \$6,640,172.

Despite its meager resources, Camacho said, the Judiciary has worked to continue maintaining operations and providing services.

She said their building and ground maintenance division has only two employees to maintain courthouses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Camacho said these two employees worked tirelessly to maintain the buildings.

“We have requested additional employees for maintenance in previous budgets, but were not allocated funds for such positions,” the courts director said.

As to the question whether judges or court employees are still holding offices inside the Guma Hustisia building, Camacho said the Judiciary has extended limited and restricted access to certain employees, while alternative work sites have been established to limit entrance into the building.

At the same time, Camacho said, the Judiciary has maintained that while the building is closed, they will continue providing services.

“Operation of certain divisions, such as the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office and Office of the Clerk of Court, require limited access to the Guma Hustisia to retrieve necessary documents,” she added.

Constitutionality of contribution law still up in the air—Govendo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo remains in the balance about the constitutionality of Public Law 16-2, which has a provision that reduced the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s employer contribution rate for fiscal year 2008.

The court cannot at this time rule that P.L. 16-2 was unconstitutional, said Govendo in denying NMI Settlement Fund's motion for a summary judgment in connection with its lawsuit against CUC for non-payment of employer contributions.

"There is simply not enough proof in this case to meet the high standard required for summary judgment," Govendo said in the order.

He said CUC and the CNMI government have put forth enough facts to defend P.L. 16-2 and that the burden of proof is on the NMI Settlement Fund.

The judge said NMI Settlement Fund's vague allegation that neither the government nor CUC can show the impairment is reasonable and necessary is not adequate to warrant summary judgment.

Govendo ordered that the pleadings in the Settlement Fund's lawsuit be amended to include the updated information, arguments, and complaints.

Govendo also advised that the government be listed as a defendant in the new pleadings, as the court considers the government a necessary party.

The judge found that there are genuine disputes as to material facts and that the Settlement Fund has failed to identify the pleadings, depositions, affidavits, or other evidence it believes demonstrates the absence of a genuine issue of material fact.

The Settlement Fund filed the complaint against CUC in May 2011.

In its complaint, the Fund alleges that CUC is delinquent in its employer contributions. CUC is required by law to provide employee and employer contributions to the Fund for all CUC employees.

Pursuant to P.L. 16-2 Section 9, CUC is required to pay a penalty on its delinquent contributions.

In December 2011, the Fund filed a motion for partial summary judgment as to the constitutionality of P.L. 16-2 and CUC's reduced employer contribution rate for fiscal year 2008.

The Fund asserts that CUC is severely delinquent in its employer contributions to the Commonwealth's Defined Benefit Plan.

The Fund argues CUC has incurred, but not paid, penalties and interest, and is liable to the Fund for lost opportunity costs because of the Fund's inability to invest the unremitted

employer contributions.

The ultimate determination of the amount due in this case rests on the constitutionality of P.L. 16-2.

In its motion for summary judgment, the Fund argues that P.L. 16-2 is unconstitutional because it unlawfully diminishes and impairs the accrued benefits of the Fund in violation of Article II, Section 20(a) of the CNMI Constitution.

The CNMI Constitution provides that accrued pension benefits shall be neither diminished nor impaired.

The Fund asserts that P.L. 16-2 violates the contract's clause of the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.

In February 2012, CUC filed its opposition to the Fund's motion for summary judgment. CUC denies that it owes the Fund the money it seeks and asserts that CUC was justified in relying on P.L. 16-2.

CUC alleges that P.L. 16-2 was the CNMI government's response to address a CNMI-wide emergency that was necessary to ensure that CUC would be able to avert an economic, health, and welfare disaster.

Any harm created by this law, CUC claims, should be addressed to its creator, the CNMI government.

CUC requests, in the alternative, that if the court were to find P.L. 16-2 unconstitutional, that such finding be held non-retroactive, based on CUC's justified reliance on the law and the Fund's delay in the filing of this action and its subsequent motion.

Additionally, CUC complains there is nothing in the complaint that could have given CUC's prior counsel notice that P.L. 16-2 would be attacked as unconstitutional.

In May 2012, the CNMI government entered the case as an intervenor, but in March 26, 2018, the government expressed its desire to pull out of the case. The Office of the Attorney General said the government no longer takes a position in the case.

Govendo heard the motion last March 26. Nicole M. Torres-Ripple represented the Settlement Fund. Joyce Tang, the trustee for the Settlement Fund, was also present.

James Sirok argued for CUC. In his order issued Monday, Govendo said this case is not ripe for summary judgment.

First, Govendo noted that Settlement Fund's original complaint alleged that as of April 29, 2011, CUC owed \$4.4 million for deficient employer contributions, penalties, and economic damages.

However, Govendo said, at the March 26 hearing, the Settlement Fund's counsel did not recognize this amount and instead referred to various charts detailing CUC's delinquent fees.

Govendo said he under-

stands that coming up with a number for damages is a complicated process that must be decided at a trial.

Second, the judge said, the complaint and motion for summary judgment were filed in 2011.

Govendo said as the court made clear in the March 26 hearing, the information contained in the pleadings are out-of-date and must be updated.

He also noted that P.L. 16-2 only limited the reduction in CUC's payments to the Settlement Fund for a period of one year, and was in response to a state of emergency where residents of Saipan had limited access to basic utilities such as power and water.

Widow asks the court to declare her missing husband deceased

A widow has filed a petition to have the court declare her husband, who has been reported missing since August 2010, deceased.

Jing Zhi Li, through counsel Bruce Berline, requested the Superior Court yesterday to issue an order establishing a presumption of death of her husband, Jianke Li, who disappeared when he and his companion went cliff fishing at Naftan Point on Saipan.

Li asked the court to order the office of vital statistics to prepare a death certificate for her missing husband.

On Aug. 9, 2010, authorities located Jianke's companion, Jian Sheng, who was drowned in the waters at the bottom of the cliff where the two had been fishing, according to police and court records.

According to Berline, the Li couple has two children—ages 23 and 12 years old.

Berline said Jianke Li has been missing from his last known place of domicile for five years or longer.

Berline said Jianke Li was last heard from on Aug. 8, 2010.

The lawyer said Jianke Li

departed his home in San Antonio around 8pm on Aug. 8, 2010, to go cliff fishing at Naftan Point.

The following morning, Aug. 9, 2010, Jianke Li and his companion, Jian Sheng, had not returned home and were reported missing to the Department of Public Safety.

Berline said authorities conducted a land and sea search for the missing fishermen.

That same day, Sheng's body was located in the waters at the bottom of the cliff.

Berline said the search was terminated in the evening of Aug. 11, 2010.

Berliner said Jianke Li was never located by authorities. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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Finance to open cashier booth at BMV

In addition to the CNMI Treasurer on Capital Hill and Revenue and Taxation in Dandan, the Finance Department will establish a cashier booth at the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles office.

According to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, the BMV cashier booth will also temporarily serve as the payment point for the Judiciary as the court building under-

goes maintenance.

The cashier became open to the public last Monday, April 16, 2018, and will operate from 8am to 11:30a.m. and from 12:30pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

"With an additional payment booth available for payments typically accepted by Revenue and Taxation and Treasury, this should help speed up payments of government services or fees. How-

ever, the public is advised that court specific payments will still need to be handled by the cashier at the Judicial building," Larson said.

Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero noted that the cashier booth at BMV will improve the efficiency of payments that are recurring.

"This will definitely improve the process for driver's license and car registra-

tion payments. We want to express our appreciation the Department of Finance and the Clerk of Court for their collaboration in establishing a much needed service. It'll be much more convenient for the public and will increase the efficiency of our administrative operations," Guerrero said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed that adding another booth reduces the run-

around and streamlines revenue generation.

"I am very grateful for the collaboration between all agencies to get this up and running. There are future plans to further improve payments for government services, and this is one way we are leveraging existing resources. We hope this reduces waiting times as we continue to explore more convenient payment options," Torres said.

Payments to be accepted by the cashier at BMV include car registration payments, driver's license fees, and other fees typically accepted by the CNMI Treasury.

Tax related payments will still be processed by the Division of Revenue and Taxation, and all court filing fees, traffic citations, and all court-related activities will need to be paid at the alternative sites set up by the CNMI Judiciary.

For any questions or more information, call 664-1100. (PR)

New San Vicente central park breaks ground

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The construction of the new San Vicente Central Park a few meters across San Vicente Church aims to restore the ar-

ea's identity by recreating the iconic San Vicente road house pavilion that was demolished eight years ago to give way to highway development.

This project is made possible by the joint efforts of

the Office of the Governor, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, and the Department of Public Works.

At the groundbreaking cer-

emony yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the San Vicente Park is important to him personally. "This has been a long-time vision... this park is not only for the children but more so for the elderly who

grew up here and has made the San Vicente park a part of their lives.

"...We turned in the grant application five to six years ago, I just want to thank all the departments that made this a reality," he said.

"This park is not only ours but for the whole community, so everyone please take ownership. When constructions starts...make sure that the project finish[es] in a timely fashion," he added.

Mary Ann Arriola, grants manager from the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, said the construction of the new project was in pursuit of revitalizing the existing San Vicente community park.

"Back in 2011, then-senator Ralph DLG Torres initiated an exploratory research together with the 17th House speaker Eli Cabrera for a proposed central community park in the village of San Vicente. Preliminary development ensued, which resulted into a vision of a place where members of the community can peacefully assemble, be close to nature and take care of their health while enjoying a safe outdoor ambience and partnership with members of the village including the surrounding neighborhoods."

Jacob Muña, planning officer of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., said that the project was funded by the Community Development Block Grant program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"When the grant was approved, we sent a letter to the Governor's Office on June 28, 2016, stating that the project from the Office of Grants and Management was selected. From then, the OGM began working with Department of Public Works to begin the creation of the paths," he added.

During her presentation, Arriola explained that the first phase of construction cost was estimated at \$475,691 and the contractor, Success International Construction, was given 180 days completion time.

"The project aims to provide a safe, accessible, educa-

tional recreational and learning opportunities for villages' adults, youths, and *man'amko*.

This park project also aims to construct modern and innovative park amenities such as park entrance signage, landscaping, barbecue pits, park benches, lamp posts, children's playground equipment, concrete round house pavilion, youth center building as well as new asphalt parking lot, drive way, and concrete walkway," she said.

"The fun part is that the children will be provided new playground equipment for them to enjoy and use for exercise in a safe environment. This place is also important for children to develop strong friendships... and for children to have opportunities to enrich their childhood," she added.

Crystal Cabrera, from the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works, said the park shall have a commercial grade playground with innovative equipment to accommodate children of all ages and of all abilities.

"Being a mother of two small children, I am passionate for the need to develop social and communication skills at a very young age. This playground is specifically designed with every intention of providing a safe place for sensory development of children of all abilities and all walks of life," she added.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who was present at the groundbreaking ceremony, said the revitalization of the park is an accomplishment.

"I grew up here so it's a place very dear to my heart and so we have been pushing for the rehabilitation of this particular area and then, just recently, we were able to get legislation through and designated this as a community park by a bill introduced by former [representative] Tony Sablan," he added.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said this would also help the San Vicente Church. "This is a good idea for the community of San Vicente and Dandan and even around the island. ...It will be helpful to church activities as well and the village fiesta."



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is joined by First Lady Diann Torres, elected and government officials and representatives from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse and Department of Public Works at the groundbreaking ceremony of the the San Vicente Central Park held yesterday located at the San Vicente loop.

BEA CABRERA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CAPITAL HILL WONDERLAND PROJECT
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2018-X-051

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Capital Hill Wonderland project.

The Palette, Inc. is proposing to construct and operate a planned development project with a total of 57 units and a club house on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The project will include:

- Twenty-one (21) villa/units of Standard Housing at 166 square meters per unit;
- Twenty-six (26) units of Master Housing at 249 square meters per unit with terrace; and
- Ten (10) units of Luxury Housing at 420 square meters per unit with individual terrace

The four-story Club House will cover about 1,800 square meters and include kitchen areas, theater, reception areas, VIP café, gift shop, restaurants, and a swimming pool and deck with terraces on the fourth floor. The project is proposed on approximately 20,484 square meters or about 2.05 hectares on private property on Lots E.A. 411 New-1 and 035 E 20.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 4:30PM at the BECQ Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Capital Hill Wonderland project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 26-0252

ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO)
aka ANGELINA P. RIOS)
Deceased.) Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKOYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIA: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed a Request for Evidentiary Hearing to Determine Title. The Hearing on the Motion is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

ELIZABETH C. MANALANG
P.O. BOX 7862 SVRB SAIPAN, MP 96950
670-235-2384 / 989-5217

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH C. MANALANG) FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0136
Petitioner,)
vs.)
THOMAS C. ETRATA)
Respondent,) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7862 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Phan wants to be kept free while appeal is pending

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Trung Quoc Phan, one of three men convicted for participating in a scheme to bring Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for money, is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow his continued release

while his appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is pending.

Phan, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, said he poses no danger to the community.

Pixley said it is highly likely that Phan will serve his entire prison term before the court decides on the merits of his appeal.

Pixley said the U.S. govern-

ment failed to present sufficient evidence to convict Phan of the offenses of fraud in labor contracting.

In this regard, the lawyer said, it is relevant to emphasize the fact that Phan was not charged with conspiracy.

He said the U.S. government's case was built upon the questionable testimony of five complaining witnesses.

At trial, Pixley said, each of these five witnesses admitted that they lied to U.S. Embassy officials in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These lies, Pixley said, included the presentation of fake certificates stating that they possessed technical skills, including welding.

He said there was no evidence showing that Phan knew that these witnesses lied about their job skills or that they paid recruitment fees.

Further, Pixley said, Phan

did not travel to Bangladesh and did not meet these workers until their arrival on Saipan on April 21, 2016.

Pixley said the workers begged and pleaded with Phan to renew their CW-1 visas, which were expiring on Oct. 18, 2016. The lawyer said one of the five complaining witnesses testified that Phan was a "good guy" who was trying to help them.

He said the complaining witness testified that Phan was

"surprised" when was told about the recruiting fees that the complaining witnesses paid to get the jobs.

Last Oct. 18, a federal jury returned a guilty verdict against Phan, Muksedur Rahman, and Mohammed Rafiqul Islam.

Phan was sentenced to eight months in prison, while Rahman was slapped with a 48-month prison term. Islam was sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment.

Phan and Islam appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and sentence.

Bordallo names chiefs of staff for DC, Guam offices

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) has appointed Adam Philip Carbullido chief of staff for her Washington, D.C. office and Jon Junior Calvo chief of staff for her Guam District Office.

Carbullido has worked for Bordallo since June 2010, most recently serving as her deputy chief of staff and communications director. In addition to his legislative responsibilities, he is the treasurer of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association and a member of the LGBT Congressional Staff Association.

Carbullido graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School and received his bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

He is the son of Supreme Court of Guam Justice F. Philip and Fay Carbullido. He is a resident of Piti and lives in Washington, D.C.

Calvo has worked for Bordallo since June 2011, most



Carbullido



Calvo

science in Public Administration and master of Public Administration degrees from the University of Guam. In 2005, he was selected as Bordallo's first congressional page in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Calvo is the son of John and Doris Calvo of Toto. He and his wife, JoDee, have two sons, Juan Mason and James Matias.

"Adam and Jon Junior are integral members of my staff and ardent proponents for Guam and my work in Congress. I deeply value their counsel and am confident that they are the right people to lead my D.C. and Guam offices," said Bordallo. "I am proud to appoint them as my chiefs of staff and know that together they will provide valuable support for my advocacy of fighting for our island's issues in Washington." (PR)

Kids' Freshwater Derby: Fishing, flora, fauna at Masso Reservoir

Bread, worms, fish? Or corn, crackers, stale donuts? At the sixth Kids' Freshwater Fishing Derby held earlier this month, 35 youth between the ages of 5 to 16 participated in the competition held at the Masso Reservoir in Piti.

Eight-year-old Tianna Vasquez-Bilon won after catching a 186mm tilapia. She contributed to the total derby catch of 69 tilapia, sleepers, and shrimp.

Thomas Detry (10) came in second with a 173mm macheng (sleeper) while Tylor Vasquez-Bilon (10) came in third with a 160mm tilapia.

Other freshwater species living in the Masso Reservoir include *umatang* (flagtail) and *asuli* (eel). Early risers could be lucky to hear a *pulattat* (Marianas moorhen), which has also been known to nest in the area.

The derby, using a fishing platform built six years ago, offers youth an opportunity to fish in a safe environment. The Department of Agriculture spearheads the annual event to encourage recreational fishing while UOG Cooperative Extension & Outreach coordinated activities to teach people about the area's natural resources.

Volunteer John Jocson manned a table where he helped participants make simple hook-and-line sets of *ahgao* (false elder) and *pago* (beach hibiscus) branches. Returning this year with his antique lures and fishing gear display, volunteer Yohei Harada also taught knot-tying. Using *ti* leaves and *kalachucha* (plumeria), volunteer Moñeka De Oro helped people weave *mwar-mwars*, or garlands.

A scavenger hunt coordinated by Forestry & Soil Resources Division, the Southern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program challenged attendees to find mango leaves, *lada* fruit, *bay-*

ogu (sea bean) seeds, flowers, and evidence of animal damage throughout the park.

The Biosecurity Division also set up two microscopes so participants could see little fire ants, a relatively new invasive species. Staff also provided information about the coconut rhinoceros beetle and greater banded hornet.

And if the occasional rain wasn't enough in the derby's few hours, Forestry staff lightly hosed kids from their fire truck and 5-gallon water bladder bags. This essential equipment helps suppress recent human-caused wildfires around the Nimitz Hill area, which borders the Masso park.

Since 2008, the Department of Agriculture has planted more than 14,000 trees in the Masso area to decrease erosion and help restore the Asan-Piti watershed. Wildfires, all of which on Guam are started by humans, threaten the decade-long restoration effort.

All activities, part of larger islandwide Earth Month events, helped participants to understand Guam's environment and ways to protect it.

Winners

- Tianna Vasquez-Bilon (8) - 186mm tilapia
- Thomas Detry (10) - 173mm sleeper
- Tylor Vasquez-Bilon (10) - 160mm tilapia
- Isabelle Sunga (13) - 150mm tilapia
- Jacob Soderquist (8)- 137mm tilapia
- Mike Halmi, Jr. (15) - 137mm tilapia

The top four winners received rod and reel sets with a tackle box. Fifth and sixth place winners received outdoor camping stools.

For information about upcoming saltwater derbies at Asan in June and July, contact Marie Auyong at 735-2143 (auyongm@triton.uog.edu) or Brent Tibbatts at 735-0289 / 0281 / 0294 (guamfishinfo@gmail.com). (UOG)



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San Jose Fiesta promises to be bigger, splashier this year

The Tinian San Jose Fiesta will be held on May 4-6, 2018, in celebration of Tinian's patron saint, San Jose.

This annual community celebration will also include local vendor sales, entertainment, arts and crafts, and various sporting events.

This year's fiesta will feature 22 concession booths. Visitors can sample a taste of Tinian with local dishes, chaser, and cold, refreshing drinks. Local artists will have crafts, souvenirs, clothing, and accessories made on island. Youngsters will be able to enjoy a kiddie carnival featuring a large bouncy house and game booths run by student and community organizations.

Festivities will have a soft opening on May 3 with live entertainment from 6pm to 10pm at the fiesta grounds next to Kammer Beach. The official opening ceremony will be held on May 4 at 7pm, with live entertainment following until midnight. Live entertainment and a variety of sports and activities

will be held on May 5 from 10am to 10:45pm.

The fiesta will feature performances ranging from solo/group singing, dancing, to on-stage exhibitions. The headline performance for this four-day event will be Tinian's own Pacific Cool, who have not been back on Tinian since 2005.

The award-winning cultural group TaoTao Taga will perform at the opening ceremony.

Other acts will include bands such as Mango Session featuring Tinian's Nathan Ada, the Tinian High School Music Club featuring former CNMI's Got Talent winner Nikita Mendiola, and Up-rooted CNMI. A portion of the entertainment lineup will feature a Magic Hour with performances from the reigning Queen Mariana Scarlett Dixon, 2018 CNMI's Got Talent winner, magician Neil Fama, and comedian Chinaman/Patrick Arriola. Members of the Music of the Marianas Organization, Maggie Naputi, James Selepeo, and Marvin

Deleon Guerrero, will close out the fiesta each night, opening the dance floor for everyone in attendance.

The Tinian Mayor's Office has spearheaded the organization of the 2018 San Jose Fiesta, led by event coordinator and fiesta committee chair Joseph Manglona Hocog. Sponsorship through monetary and in-kind donations has been received from the Marianas Visitors Authority, IT&E, Marianas Pacific Inc. and Tan Holdings Corp. All donations received will shoulder major expenses such as event logistics, entertainment fees, and prize money for all sports and community activities.

"On behalf of the leadership and the people of Tinian, we welcome all of our friends and families throughout the Marianas and the region to help us celebrate the San Jose Fiesta," said San Nicolas. "With the theme of 'Homegrown,' this year's fiesta will showcase Tinian's many well-known and newer homegrown talents. From fishing to bike racing,

from live-entertainment to the many games, this San Jose Fiesta will be an event to remember. Biba San Jose!"

To maximize community involvement, a variety of sports and activities will be held throughout the four days with cash prizes. These activities include karaoke singing contest, sandcastle building competition, tug-of-war: battle of the families, fiesta scavenger hunt, San Jose sumo tournament, and chacha dance competition. Sporting events will include a canoe race, Tinian fishing derby, cockfight derby, and the annual Tour de Tinian 100K Bike Race featuring bikers from Korea, Philippines, Guam, and the Marianas.

For the fiesta, Star Marianas Inc. will extend its flight schedules from Tinian to Saipan until 10:30pm for Friday and Saturday.

"Each year, the MVA supports activities coinciding with Tinian San Jose Fiesta, as this is one of the largest tourism events on island each year,"

said MVA acting managing director Judy Torres. "With all the advanced planning and arrangements already made by the Tinian Mayor's Office this year, we are pleased to also be able to promote the event to our inter-island and offshore markets. It is a truly a unique and culturally rich event worth experiencing."

On May 6, 2018, church festivities will begin with Mass at 8am at the Tinian Parish, followed by a procession around San Jose Village. Following the procession, brunch will be hosted by the San Jose Parish Council on the church grounds. Raffle tickets are on sale in an effort to raise funds for the renovation of the church, and winners will be announced at the fiesta grounds at 2pm.

The Tinian Bikers Association lead the organization of the Tour de Tinian, which will be held at 6am on May 6 and have acquired sponsorship from T Galleria, TSC, the MVA, Tan Holdings Corp., and Bikefix Guam. (PR)

GRMC to hold 3rd Annual Bubble Fun Run

DEDEDO, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City, IP&E, and IT&E will be hosting the 3rd Annual Bubble Fun Run on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 5am to 8am, with start and finish at the Ypao Beach Park.

The 5K runners will head northbound on San Vitores Road, make a left at Fujita Road, turn around, and head southbound back toward Ypao Beach Park.

GRMC introduced HeartBeat, its outreach and community support program, last year. Proceeds from the upcoming Bubble Fun Run will help HeartBeat's community support of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

The HeartBeat program allows for collaborative partnership with local businesses,

» Family-Oriented 5K to be bigger, better, and more bubbly

associations and nonprofit organizations, with the shared vision of making a positive impact for residents. Through this collective effort, GRMC along with IP&E, IT&E, and the Ben Lorenzo Foundation team up to raise funds for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Last year, Bubble Fun Run garnered over 1500 attendees and supporters. This year, an estimated 2,000 runners are expected to pass through the bubbles, generated by a large foam machine at the finish line and smaller bubble machines situated at the water stations. The foam is organic, gluten, and toxic free.

Powerade is the official sports drink, Quench is the official water, and Subway is the official restaurant partner of the Bubble Fun Run for the next three years.

Registration forms/bibs will be on sale at the customer relations desk at GRMC, IT&E's main location in Harmon and on Andersen Air Force Base, and at select Foody's locations (MicroMall Intersection, Hagåtña, and Mangilao). Forms can be downloaded in advance by visiting the GRMC website at www.grmc.gu.

GRMC is a 136-bed acute care hospital in Dededo. The hospital offers world-class medical care to the residents of Guam, as well as the CNMI, Palau, the FSM, and the Marshall Islands. (PR)



PCF FELLOWS

The 2018 Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter members pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Luis John Castro at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2018 BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR GALA

Two to be honored with Lifetime Achievement awards

MAITE, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine will present Lifetime Achievement awards to two recipients on April 28 at the 2018 Businesswoman of the Year gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

This year, the Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to Kathleen Cheng-Chi Meng Hsiao and Margaret A. Jones.

The award recognizes businesswomen in the region who have been pioneers in their fields, have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in their island community and who serve as role models for

businesswomen today.

Hsiao is co-owner and personnel manager of Alpha Insurers and owner of Cheers Travel Inc. and Grand Harvest Inc. and has been in business for 40 years. She graduated with a 1964 bachelor's in English language and literature at the National Taiwan University, followed by a master's in academic librarianship from the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash. She came to Guam 47 years ago in 1971 as a young wife and mother, working at the University of Guam, where she became the chairperson of the reference department of the Robert F. Kennedy Library. Her

entrepreneurial spirit soon saw her working at Alpha Insurers from 1978 alongside her husband, Joseph. Hsiao also followed her instincts in variously launching the Professional Books store and Double Rainbow Ice Cream and Coffee.

Community organizations that Hsiao has been instrumental in establishing include the Guam Business and Professional Women's Club, the United Chinese Association and the Chinese School. She is a past president of the Chinese Ladies Association. Hsiao has supported various organizations throughout her years on Guam.

Jones is treasurer of Triple J

Enterprises Inc., a group role she has held since 1984. After coming to Guam 57 years ago from Raleigh, N.C., Jones began her formal working life in Guam in 1968 at the Marianas Travel Agency—the first travel agency in Guam. She would also work with Eileen Kershaw, a Guam fine jewelry and gift shop from 1973, particularly involved with its inventory and buying, before joining Pan American Airlines in 1975 as a special sales representative, where she would stay until 1991, when it was sold.

Jones served as a charter member in 1965 of the Guam

Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association—or the Pink Ladies as they are known. She is also a past president of the organization that has donated millions of dollars in equipment and other necessities for the hospital. Outside of Triple J's community support, other organizations that Jones has personally supported through the years include the Guam Women's Club, the Miss Guam Universe Pageant, St. John's School as a member of the board and Harvest Baptist Church.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. (PR)

MVA brings top Korean live streamer to Marianas

Influential YouTuber and top live streamer in Korea Daedoseogwan and honorary Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee were in the Marianas this month on a familiarization tour with Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the destination.

Daedoseogwan, who has 1.7 million subscribers, and Lee visited Saipan and Tinian on March 31 to April 5, to promote the Marianas as the most ideal destination for outdoor and leisure activities, as well as to highlight its beautiful underwater world.

The celebrities and film team visited numerous tourist spots to experience the Marianas’ leisure activities, such as scuba diving, fishing, ATV tours and golf.

On Saipan, the group visited Grotto, Lau Lau Beach, Banzai Cliff, Mt. Tapochau and Micro Beach, capturing the beauty of Saipan’s land and sea.

On Tinian, the group visited more famous tourist spots such as Blowhole, Broadway, Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, and other sites. They experienced various outdoor and underwater activities such as ATV, snorkeling and fishing at Long Beach.

“All the participants ex-

pressed great admiration for the uncontaminated ocean and wonderful natural tourist attractions of the Marianas,” said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo. “In particular, they enjoyed a beachside BBQ at Tachogna Beach, watching a stunning sunset while eating dinner.”

Video and photo content gained from the tour will be utilized in one of Lee’s upcoming music video. The

MVA is also conducting an online consumer event to disseminate video clips and eye-catching pictures of the Marianas, including underwater photos. The MVA will also organize paid social media campaigns through its own channels to create an online buzz in Korea.


The tour was also supported by Aqua Resort Club Saipan and Tinian Ocean View Hotel. *(MVA)*



Korean singer and honorary Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee visits the Blowhole while on Tinian during filming on April 2, 2018.




YouTube Daedoseogwan, left, and YouTube Yumdaeng, right, visit Tinian for filming on April 2, 2018.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-18-IFB-014

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF STOREFRONT DOOR/WINDOWS FOR THE OFFICE OF AGING, ROTA

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply Delivery and Installation of Storefront Door/Windows for Office of Aging, Rota** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 5, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 24, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the **Office of Aging, ROTA**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 2, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW-18-IFB-014”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time May 7, 2018**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, May 7, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 7, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 16, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 18, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 7, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Gov't Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA

Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN

Director of Procurement & Supply

TO: RACHEL T. F. DELEON GUERRERO and APRIL LYNN P. RIOS

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated September 26, 2013 (addendum dated March 25, 2014), secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 24, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage:

September 26, 2013; \$64,152.00

(c) Amount due for principal:

\$11,307.67 as of June 1, 2017

(d) Amount due for interest:

\$2,811.91 as of June 1, 2017

(e) Daily accruing interest:

\$2.40

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$14,119.58, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of \$500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 26, 2013 (addendum gi Matso 25, 2014), ni afabobot i Mortgage ma aseguro i tano yan guma ni un empena gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empenen (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 1302, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 931 kuadrao metro, mas pat menus, ni anak gi DLS Check numino 011 G 24, gi Disiembre 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numiro 96-2567, guihi i deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña:

Septembre 26, 2013; \$64,152.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat:

\$11,307.67 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

(d) Kantida un debi para interes:

\$2,811.91 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

(e) Interes kada dia:

\$2.40

Yanin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) \$14,119.58 yan i resanable na apas abugado pot \$500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), yan siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yun kontra minagaget-ña pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopla pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i kata-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao i na'an yan address i akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera — siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi rehoki para este i dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

There's danger in the words 'mission accomplished'

President Donald Trump could not have chosen two more ominous words—"mission accomplished"—to hail Friday's retaliatory attack on Syria for its chemical weapons attack on civilians. Either the president's grasp of history exceeded his intellectual reach, or he was deliberately mocking a previous commander-in-chief who immersed America in a debilitating Middle Eastern war with no clear objective.

Either way, Trump wound up mocking himself by invoking the phrase that became ironically famous after President George W. Bush landed aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier seven weeks after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. As Bush spoke in front of a large "Mission Accomplished" banner, Iraq was leaderless, looted and in flames. A year later, U.S. forces became immersed in a ground war against Sunni and Shiite Muslim insurgents with no way out. Seven years later, the U.S. casualty toll stood at more than 4,400 killed and nearly 32,000 wounded.

Trump has ordered two separate missile attacks in the past 53 weeks aimed at crippling Assad's ability to use chemical weapons against his own people. Photos show that the missiles destroyed several buildings, but beyond that, it's hard to say what the mission accomplished. Neither Assad nor his chief ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, seemed particularly humbled or stricken with fear.

Perhaps that's because they knew in advance what to expect. Jon Huntsman Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Russia, stated on Facebook that "the U.S. communicated with the R.F. (Russian Federation) to reduce the danger of any Russian or civilian casualties" in Friday's attack. A U.S. president who had insisted he would not broadcast his intentions to the enemy did exactly that.

The administration has committed around 2,000 ground troops in Syria. Administration officials are all over the map about next steps. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders says Trump still intends to withdraw those troops. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said it wouldn't happen until the Islamic State is defeated, Syria stops deploying chemical weapons, and Iran's influence is held in check in the region.

Trump has not yet articulated plans to block Islamic State's resurgence, nor any vision for Syria. Does he support the ouster of Assad? If so, how does he plan to achieve it, and what type of government would he put in its place?

Islamic State forces have gone into hiding, most likely to fight another day in another place. It'll take a lot more than 2,000 U.S. troops and two missile attacks to check Iran's influence across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. And a halt to Syria's use of chemical weapons is no more assured today than it was a year ago.

The mission, then, could hardly be murkier or more confusing. If that's Trump's goal, mark it as accomplished.

(c)2018 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Facebook likes us. It really likes us

There's a quality of urban life that people either love or hate: Everywhere you look in a city is a terminal point of human desire.

If you're in a city right now, look around. Church. Manicure joint. Strip club. Condos. The population's collective demands for religion, sex, shelter and (above all) #nailart are inscribed in the cityscape. Contrast this with an untamed natural landscape where human desires aren't answered at all. Want a bed or simple hydration? The forest and desert don't care.

Facebook is a hypertropolis that can make even the most committed urbanite long for the countryside. It's engineered to stoke and satisfy desires. Initially, users turn to Facebook for clients, romance and popularity. Eventually we're trained to crave and demand everything from overpriced socks to political propaganda.

That's when we start shelling out resources, in dollars and in the more precious coin of our attention and data.

But where a city fulfills the wants and needs of its entire population, Facebook is perpetually reading individual users. It both installs our buttons and pushes the hell out of them. It speaks to us in our own voice, cobbled together from what it interprets to be our longings and desires.

Facebook then coarsens that voice, and amplifies it. The data-and-targeting algorithm acts like Iago, amping up our basest emotions while pretending to be merely concerned for our welfare. Mention the word "cheating" in Messenger, for example, and Facebook's Iago jumps to conclusions, showing you ads for private-eye services. (Not that I know this firsthand.)

It was this icky part of Facebook's UX that seemed most to bother the members of Congress who interrogated Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg last week. Ostensibly the hearings were to determine whether government ought to regulate Facebook, which enjoys unprecedented power over 2 billion users. But the hearings often seemed more like a 10-hour encounter group for boomers and senior citizens terrified of digitization.

Understandably, the gang on Capitol Hill was deeply concerned about the targeting of users with bespoke come-ons. Targeted ads are one of the few ways ordinary people see visible evidence of Facebook's arcane data operation, and concern about ads is a proxy for the broader worry about data-gathering.

It was interesting to hear senators and congresspeople voice their anxiety and to hear Zuckerberg express contempt for it.

Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida (b. 1942) asked an especially sweet, pained question: "I'm communicating with my friends on Facebook and indicate that I love a certain kind of chocolate. And all of a sudden I start receiving advertisements for chocolate. What if I don't want to receive those commercial advertisements?"

"If you want to have an experience where your ads aren't targeted using all the information that we have available," Zuckerberg replied, "you can turn off third-party information."

The implication was that Nelson's squeamishness was not just

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN

Los Angeles Times



odd, but self-defeating. Why wouldn't he want targeted ads using all the dirt on him in Facebook's arsenal?

Zuckerberg's answer implied one of Facebook's more far-fetched talking points. According to the company line, data-harvesting and user-targeting are not done in the name of surveillance or even profits. Rather, they're done for the same reason Facebook does all else: Because it cares about us. Hmm. Unlikely.

When Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska (b. 1951) pressed Zuckerberg on data storage, he said even more clearly than he had to Nelson that Facebook does it for our own good.

"We store data about what people share on the service and information that's required to do ranking better, to show you what you care about in news feed."

"What you care about" was an insidious Zuckerberg euphemism for targeted ads and propaganda. Another was "relevant content." He was proposing that human beings want to be confronted with nothing but things they're presumed to desire.

As he flatly asserted, "The overwhelming feedback that we get from our community is that people would rather have us show relevant content there than not."

Clearly, the chocolate-loving Nelson was not part of that feedback. And if those who fail to opt out of the data-gathering are considered to be overwhelmingly in favor of it, that's a hopeless indicator. Opting out is, of course, made as tricky as possible.

But that's not the point. Zuckerberg and Facebook believe we are not only desperate to "connect" but desperate to be understood—if only by an algorithm that sees us as a nothing but a ball of needs and wants ripe for exploitation.

Then it mirrors and refracts that image back at us until we come to believe it, and—worse—until we yield to the exploitation as evidence that Facebook cares about us.

It's devilish logic. No wonder the reflex of many in Congress was a kind of disbelief and dysphoria. And every time Zuckerberg insisted that data-gathering and targeting are for the benefit of the people, they looked more defeated.

Nelson is from Florida. Fisch is from Nebraska. Come the next recess, I hope they go home for a bit. Maybe visit the Everglades or the Wildcat Hills. In swamps and rugged terrain, it takes some doing even to meet baseline desires for comfort.

But when no one's telling you to want—well, the traditional American word for that is freedom.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Re: 80-percent salary increases for elected officials

A college graduate returns home to her beloved island of Saipan. She wants to be a teacher. In order to do so, she earns her teaching certificate, passes Praxis I and Praxis II, and then lands her dream job, earning \$33,289.35. What most people don't know is that she owes \$25,000 in college loans, and her parents owe over \$80,000 in Parent Plus loans to help their daughter through college.

Without the 80-percent salary increase that raises their salaries to \$70,000 annually, elected officials in the House and Senate still make more than this teacher at \$39,300. An elected official has zero requirements for education or experience and is not required to pass any tests. An elected official is not even required to have a high school diploma and only needs to meet age and residency requirements and not be convicted of a felony.

Furthermore, elected officials also are able to lease cars, get gas cards, travel, get cell phones, computers, new furniture for

the office, and other benefits under their \$90,000 annual discretionary funds. *A teacher does not get a discretionary fund.*

While the CNMI Legislature operates as a part-time Legislature, their salaries are much higher than the average salaries of part-time legislators in the United States, which is \$18,449.

The average starting salaries for teachers in the CNMI are not too far behind the national average starting salaries in the U.S., which is at \$38,617.

How much will the big salary increases for elected and appointed officials and the restoration of the governor and lieutenant governor's annuity cost taxpayers additionally every year? About \$2.3 million. That is \$2.3 million that could have been used for DPS and DFEMS and first responders' hazard pay; or to help NMTI; or to help CHCC or medical referral.

With the uncertainty of the CW-1 program being extended, the risk of losing the parole program for Chinese tourists and a

By **EDWIN K. PROPST**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Edwin K. Propst is a Precinct 1 representative at the 20th Commonwealth Legislature.

possible trade war with China looming, and the pressing need to fund critical local agencies, now is not the time to give lavish raises to elected and appointed officials. Unfortunately, such increases are already included in the fiscal year 2019 budget we received.

What are your thoughts?

What happened in Starbucks isn't really about Starbucks

I don't drink coffee, so I can't boycott Starbucks. But I wouldn't if I could.

Yes, I understand—and share—the national anger over viral video of last week's arrest of two African-American men at one of the company's Philadelphia stores. The men, who have yet to be identified, were reportedly doing nothing more threatening than waiting quietly to be joined by a man they were meeting there, having asked to use the restroom and been refused. Their waiting apparently scared the bejeezus out of the manager, who called police.

Cellphone video of the incident shows a white guy asking if the men are being arrested because "they were black guys, sitting there."

An officer, attempting facetiousness, says yes.

But his facetiousness is misplaced because obviously, that's exactly why they were arrested. On the video the white customers are upset, but the men accept it placidly, as befits veterans of the exhausting job of Being While Black.

Now Starbucks faces a public-relations nightmare as people swear off its lattes and macchiatos. Protesters have appeared at the Philadelphia store. "Starbucks Coffee is Anti-Black" they chanted. "Shame on Starbucks," one sign declared.

But Starbucks isn't the point.

To pretend it is is a comforting fiction. It allows the company to apologize, vow to do better and move on. It allows protesters to

feel righteous at having proven they will not tolerate intolerance.

Meantime, we know as a statistical matter of fact that somewhere, a little boy was just suspended from school for a minor infraction because he is black.

A desperately ill woman was just denied sufficient medication to ease her pain because she is black.

A highly qualified applicant was just passed over for the job of her dreams because she is black.

And sometime soon, another unarmed man will be shot by police because he is black.

Most of it won't make the news. If it does, we will treat it as we are now treating Starbucks—as an individual, albeit outrageous, story requiring good people to rise in protest. But you see, these are not individual stories.

No, it's all the same story.

The circumstances change, yes, but the story never does. Nor does the moral thereof: America is a nation still infected with the same idiocy that has bedeviled us since before Thomas Jefferson wrote those noble words he didn't believe about all men being created equal. Now, as then, some of us think you can judge a person's intentions and worth from the color of his skin.

They may heatedly deny that they believe this. They may not even know that they believe this. But they believe it just the same.

So it's useless to single out Starbucks for opprobrium. Granted, it may come out that it—like Denny's and Cracker Barrel

By **LEONARD PITTS JR.**

Miami Herald



Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

before it—has a corporate culture of denigrating black customers, in which case, the company deserves all the opprobrium we can muster.

But absent that development, what happened in Starbucks isn't really about Starbucks. Nor are police shootings of unarmed black men really about police or the denial of palliative care to sick black people really about doctors. No, it's the same story and the story is all about us, about we the people and the truths we claim to hold self-evident but don't.

Last week, the story unfolded at Starbucks. It could just as easily have been Red Lobster or McDonald's. It still could. So to make this about Starbucks is to let the real culprit off the hook.

This is the coffee maker's embarrassment, yes.

But it's America's ongoing shame.

Syria raid raises an important question

The video of the aftermath of Bashar Assad's recent chemical attack on his own people displayed gruesome images that would challenge even the most committed pacifist to look the other way.

President Donald Trump's options were extremely limited. Between carefully calibrated airstrikes on one hand and the robust military action that would be necessary to depose Assad on the other, virtually no other possibilities presented themselves.

So on Friday night, Trump chose airstrikes. In coordination with Britain and France, more than 100 missiles were launched at a few Syrian targets that were involved in Assad's production of chemical weapons.

This was risky. Russia, a nuclear power, had threatened to respond to any attack, and it had the military assets in the area to do so. The accidental deaths of Russian or Iranian military personnel would have had unpredictable consequences.

But Saturday morning the New York Times was reporting a "palpable sense of relief" in Moscow. None of its interests in Syria had been affected, relieving Russia of an obligation to retaliate. On the same page the Times reported that the "Pentagon Declares Syria Strikes Successful." Trump tweeted, "Mission Accomplished!"

It was the perfect limited strike. It did not spark a wider conflict. Casualties were minimal. The strike's modest goals provided Moscow and Tehran an opportunity to back down gracefully from their rhetoric. Trump has an opportunity to brag. And Americans who were justifiably horrified by the images of chil-

dren gasping for breath can comfort themselves with the consolation that at least we did something.

But, really, nothing has changed. Assad's chemical weapons capacity may have suffered a setback, but Lt. General Kenneth McKenzie, the Pentagon's Joint Staff director, concedes that "there's still a residual element of the Syrian program that's out there...I'm not going to say that they're going to be unable to continue to conduct a chemical attack in the future."

And by Saturday morning an unverified video was released showing Bashar Assad, in suit and tie and briefcase in hand, going to work as usual.

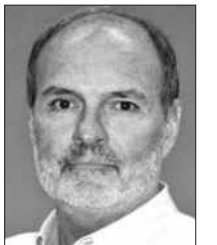
Of course. Our faith in the effectiveness of limited airstrikes like last Friday's is unfounded. Assad is in a fight for his life, and the idea that we can teach him a lesson that will dissuade him from the future use of such weapons is far-fetched.

Further, Friday's attack ignores the suffering that can be imposed on innocents by conventional weapons that, for some reason, don't raise our moral hackles in the way that chemical weapons do. With or without chemical weapons, as long as the Syrian civil war continues, women and children will be burned, crushed, buried alive and ripped by shrapnel until Assad has reclaimed full control of the country.

And in some respects, our barely tactical, non-strategic attack last Friday merely prolongs the suffering by maintaining the illusion that we have the power to influence the state of affairs in this part of the Middle East.

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

It fails to take into account an unwelcome but inevitable reality: Iran has won this round as the result of a series of events that began in March 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq. At some point the rise of Iran became inevitable. It's too bad that the Russians got involved, but our inept interference in the Syrian civil war probably made that inevitable, as well.






In any case, we can hope that the power standoff between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia will provide enough anxious equilibrium and temporary stability to stop Assad's assault on his own people and to suck the wind out of ISIS.

We have a passing interest in the Kurds—I'd advise them not to depend on us too much—and certainly an abiding and crucial interest in the security of Israel.

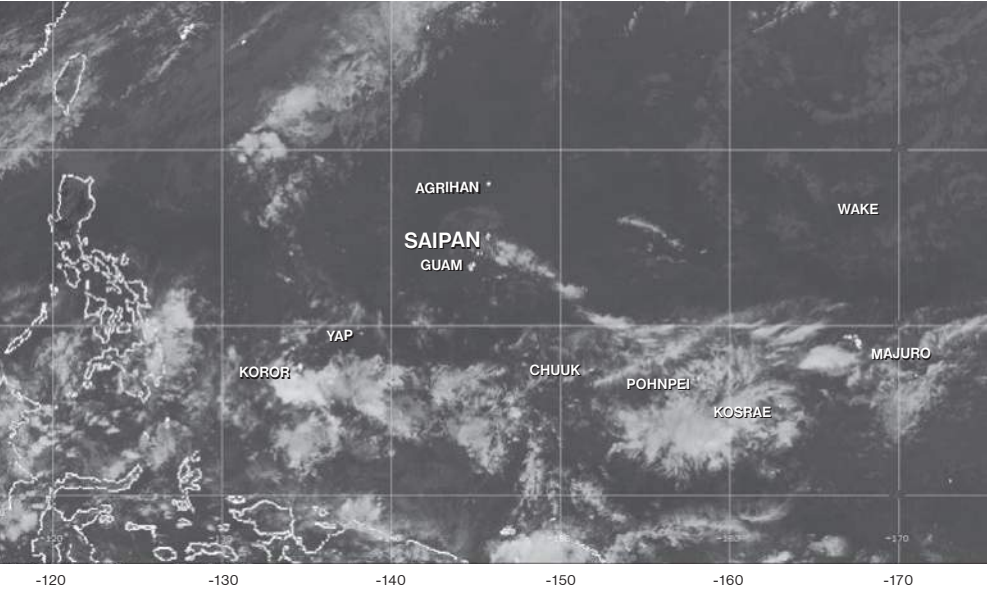
So this is not the best outcome that we could imagine, but it is the one that is in place. We're left with this question: What, in our history of intervention in complex parts of the world since 1945, led us to believe that we could have made things turn out differently with military force?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:52 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is passing through the Marianas at this time. It is oriented in such a way that it is hitting Tinian and Saipan first. So far they have had only a trace of rain, the day is still young though. By tonight, the southern portion will reach the Guam and Rota waters. Once this disturbance is past, back to dry season proper for a bit. Changes to the forecast today were minor, mainly refreshing model grids and bringing the weather earlier into Tinian and Saipan based on satellite imagery. Unfortunately radar is overshooting the cloud tops, so it was not all that useful today. It should be of more use tonight as the showers come closer. Seas are not expected to change much, at the end of the forecast period they could start an increasing trend though.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 59°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 61°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	79° / 52°	
Miami	Sunny	82° / 71°	
New York	Showers	52° / 39°	
Osaka	Sunny	75° / 54°	
Paris	Sunny	79° / 54°	
Busan	Sunny	72° / 52°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	77° / 54°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	73° / 45°	
San Francisco	Rain	59° / 48°	
Seoul	Sunny	79° / 48°	
Tokyo	Sunny	75° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Windy	60° / 41°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:58 AM	LOW TIDE	0.85	
9:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	
4:18 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.26	
11:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:31 AM	9:39 PM	-
Friday	9:26 AM	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	10:23 AM	11:40 PM	-
Sunday	11:23 AM	-	-
Monday	-	12:37 AM	12:23 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017															
DEPARTURES								ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)								GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily					UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily				
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily					UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily				
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota					UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7				
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6					UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota				
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily					UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily				
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily					UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)								GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)							
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)								ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN							
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)								NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN							
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily					DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)								BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7					7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4				
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5					7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)								SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN							
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily					7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily				
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1					OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7				
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7					TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily				
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7					OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6				
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily					LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily					7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)								SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN							
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7					3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)								HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN							
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1					JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4				
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4					JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7				
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)								GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN							
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6					3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5				
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)								BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN							
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7					MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)								MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN					UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM				
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM					PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM					UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR												
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)								HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN							
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7				
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7					U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7				
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6				
								UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM				
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>															
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.															
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily								
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily								
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily								
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily								
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily								
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily								
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily								
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily								
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily								
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN											
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY								
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily								
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily								
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily								
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily								
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily								
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily								
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily								
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily								
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily								
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily								
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily								
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily								

DPW launches three islandwide projects

Following the completion of seven major road repairs and improvement projects in fiscal year 2017, the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works has recently closed out one major project on Tinian, and has begun three islandwide repairs on Saipan.

Public Works Secretary James A. Ada noted that these major islandwide improvement projects are funded by the Federal Highway Administration and cover hazard elimination, emergency repair, and improvement to road and drainage systems.

Ada said that DPW recently celebrated the completion of Tinian Routes 21, 24, 27 and this was a Tinian Hazard Elimination Project intended to correct or improve hazardous roadway locations through re-establishment of pavement



Workers are seen rebuilding the wood railings, damaged by Typhoon Soudelor along Beach Road and eliminating hazardous pathway cracks in preparation for building a new pathway.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagES parent-teacher conferences

Kagman Elementary School will have its fourth quarter mid-progress parent-teacher conference on Thursday, April 26 from 3pm to 6pm on campus. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to learn about your child's academic performance, and if she or he will need to attend the intensive summer school program. Parents who attend the children's parent-teacher conferences three or more times during the school year will be recognized with medals and certificates at the end of the school year. For more information, call KagES at 237-3146. (PR)

SCS art show and writers showcase

The Saipan Community School invites the public to its SCS Annual Art Show and Young Writers Showcase on Friday, April 27, at 6pm in the SCS chapel. Student pieces for display range in complexity from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The SCS Young Writers Workshop will be displaying written work from Kindergarten all the way through the 8th grade. To learn more about SCS, contact principal Amanda Allen Dunn, via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. (PR)

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019, on the following dates:

- Kindergarten: April 16, 2018
- 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911. (PR)

Military training at former golf course, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada during the following dates and times:

- April 16 and 18 from noon to 6pm
- April 17 from noon to 8pm

■ The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 19-20, from 11am to 11:55pm.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur throughout the week in areas of the former Nimitz golf course and Andersen south.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

markings and signs, rehabilitation or addition of roadway shoulders, minor drainage improvements, pavement repairs, and selected intersection improvements and was a total cost of \$446,860.60, which began in September of 2017 and finished on February 2018.

"I am very happy to share that more of these projects are moving forward," Ada said.

Highway administrator Lorraine Seman stated that the ongoing federally funded projects includes the Cross Island Road Phase III and islandwide emergency repair throughout the island of Saipan with the Tangantangan Road Improvement Project, the Feddos Lane Road and the Drainage Improvement Project as locally funded projects.

"We are pleased to push the much needed emergency repairs which consist of replacement of various traffic signs, repair of signalized intersections, walkways, guardrail, and chain link fences which were damaged by Typhoon Soudelor. These repairs began in early March 2018 and we are steadily rehabilitating damaged roadways from the onslaught of Soudelor," Seman said.

A large portion of the repairs are also on Beach Road, along the hazardous cracks and the wooden railings of the pathway, said Technical Services Division director Anthony Camacho.

"It is important to emphasize that the CNMI's current Territorial Highway System includes over 120 miles of road covering Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and these critical repairs are supplemental to our current infrastructural developments and are just a small portion of major

projects in the near future," Camacho said.

Camacho said that these ongoing projects will soon be followed by proposed projects amounting to over \$60 million for the reconstruction of Route 33 Beach Road, construction of Route 302 Naftan Drive, construction of Route 34 Kagman Road, Hazard Elimination Project on Rota Route 10, Sabana Road Route 11 Phase II, and Hazard Elimination Projects on Tinian Phase II.

Highway engineer Isagani Salazar explained that Tangantangan Road and Feddos Lane construction are ongoing.

Salazar said the Tangantangan Road project began in January 2018 and is approximately 700 feet from Cross Island Road (Route 31) to the existing dirt road end.

"Currently, this existing road is about 20 feet wide of compacted coral base course and no drainage system. This

project includes construction survey and staking to identify boundary of the right of way and define elevation of the existing road, relocation of wire fence affecting the road alignment, and road reconditioning," Salazar said.

The project will also involve the application of two-inch-thick asphalt pavement approximately 1,167 square yards, permanent traffic signs and pavement markings at a combined total of \$149,326.00.

For the Feddos Lane, Salazar shared that it is approximately 1,000 feet from Route 306 to the existing dirt road end, which is about 20 feet wide of compacted coral base course and no drainage system.

The Feddos Lane project received its Notice to Proceed since March 1, 2018, and its expected completion is in 210 calendar days. The project will include a construction survey and staking to identify boundary of the right of way and define the elevation of the existing road, removal of 12 trees and 500 linear feet of

barbed wire fence affecting road alignment, road reconditioning of 2,200 square yards, application of two-inch thick asphalt pavement approximately 2,000 square yards, construction of 500 linear feet of earth swale, permanent traffic signs and pavement markings and the adjustment of three water valves and relocation of two power poles at a total of \$177,804.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, several islandwide improvement projects have been ongoing after receiving approval from the Federal Highway Administration.

"I commend the team for their meticulous planning and prioritization of repairs to our current infrastructure and I am pleased by the team's efficiency, which continues to bring positive attention and recognition by the U.S. Department of Transportation. We anticipate more projects in the coming months which will continue to serve our community and build upon our Transportation Improvement Plan for the Commonwealth," Torres said. (PR)



Road reconditioning in preparation for asphalt paving for the Tangantangan Road Improvement Project that began in January.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Business

1 dead after jet blows an engine

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Southwest Airlines jet blew an engine at 32,000 feet and got hit by shrapnel that smashed a window, setting off a desperate scramble by passengers to save a woman from getting sucked out. She later died, and seven others were injured.

Passengers dragged the woman back in as the sudden decompression of the cabin pulled her part way through the opening, but she was gravely injured.

The pilots of the plane, a twin-engine Boeing 737 bound from New York to Dallas with 149 people aboard, took it into a rapid descent and made an emergency landing in Philadelphia as passengers using oxygen masks that dropped from the ceiling said their prayers and braced for impact.

"I just remember holding my husband's hand, and we just prayed and prayed and prayed," said passenger Amanda Bourman, of New York. "And the thoughts that were going through my head of course were about my daughters, just wanting to see them again and give them a big hug so they wouldn't grow up without parents."

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A preliminary examination of the blown jet engine of the Southwest Airlines plane that set off a terrifying chain of events and left



National Transportation Safety Board investigators examine damage to the engine of the Southwest Airlines plane that made an emergency landing at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia on Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

a businesswoman hanging half outside a shattered window showed evidence of "metal fatigue," according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Passengers scrambled to save the woman from getting sucked out the window that had been smashed by debris. She later died, and seven others were injured.

The pilots of the twin-engine Boeing 737 bound from New York to Dallas with 149 people aboard took it into a rapid descent Tuesday and made an emergency landing in Philadelphia. Oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling and passengers said their prayers and braced for impact.

The dead woman was identified as Jennifer Riordan, a Wells Fargo bank executive and mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was the first passenger killed in an accident involving a U.S. airline since 2009. The seven other victims suffered minor injuries.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators to Philadelphia.

In a late night news conference, NTSB chairman Robert Sumwalt said a preliminary examination of the engine showed evidence of "metal fatigue." One of the engine's fan blades was separated and missing. The blade was separated at the point where it would come into the hub and there was evidence of metal fatigue, Sumwalt said.

offices will be closed on the afternoon of May 29 for the training, which will eventually be incorporated into the instruction process for all newly hired employees.

The episode highlights the risks large corporations run when they tie their brands so closely to social messaging. In 2015, then-CEO Howard Schultz shrugged off the "Race Together" fiasco as a well-intentioned mistake and pressed on with his public efforts to engage in the debate over race in America. Johnson was scrambling to keep the Philadelphia incident from shattering the message Schultz was going for: Starbucks is a corporation that stands for something beyond profit.

"The more your brand is trying to connect emotionally to people, the more hurt people feel when these kinds of things happen," said Jacinta Gauda, the head of the Gauda Group, a New York strategic communications firm affiliated with the Grayling network. "They are breaking a promise. That's what makes it hurt deeper."

the communications between police and dispatch that were also released, someone refers to "a group of males inside causing a disturbance," and additional officers are sent.

Starbucks, which was once ridiculed for urging its employees to write "Race Together" on coffee cups to start a national conversation on race relations, has found itself under fire for its treatment of black people.

The company reacted from a high level: Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson called the arrests "reprehensible" and said he wanted to apologize to the two men face-to-face. The company and a lawyer for the two men said they did meet, and Johnson delivered the apology. Starbucks also said the employee who called police no longer works at the store, but declined to give details.

Johnson also promised to revamp store management training to include "unconscious-bias" education. Starbucks said its U.S. company-owned stores and corporate

Starbucks to close stores for an afternoon for bias training

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks, moving swiftly to confront a racially charged uproar over the arrest of two black men at one of its stores in Philadelphia, plans to close more than 8,000 U.S. stores for several hours next month to conduct racial-bias training for nearly 175,000 workers.

The announcement Tuesday comes after the arrests sparked protests and calls for a boycott on social media. A video shows police talking with two black men seated at a table. After a few minutes, officers handcuff the men and lead them outside as other customers say they weren't doing anything wrong. Philadelphia-area media said the two were waiting for a friend.

Philadelphia police released a recording of the call from the Starbucks employee that led to the arrests. In the recording, a woman is heard saying, "Hi, I have two gentlemen in my cafe that are refusing to make a purchase or leave." She gives the address of the Starbucks store, and the entire call lasts less than 30 seconds. In

Nation

Former first lady Barbara Bush dies at age 92

HOUSTON (AP)—Barbara Bush, the snowy-haired first lady and mother of a president whose plainspoken manner and utter lack of pretense made her more popular at times than her husband, President George H.W. Bush, died Tuesday, a family spokesman said. She was 92.

Mrs. Bush brought a grandmotherly style to buttoned-down Washington, often appearing in her trademark fake pearl chokers and displaying no vanity about her white hair and wrinkles.

"What you see with me is what you get. I'm not running for president—George Bush is," she said at the 1988 Republican National Convention, where her husband, then vice president, was nominated to succeed Ronald Reagan.

The Bushes, who were married Jan. 6, 1945, had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. And Mrs. Bush was one of only two first ladies who had a child who was elected president. The other was Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams.

"I had the best job in America," she wrote in a 1994 memoir describing her time in the White House. "Every single day was interesting, rewarding, and sometimes just plain fun."

On Sunday, family spokesman Jim McGrath said the former first lady had decided to decline further medical treatment for health problems and focus instead on "comfort care" at home in Houston. She had been in the hospital recently for congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In 2009, she had heart valve replacement surgery and had a long history of treatment for Graves' disease, a thyroid condition.

"My dear mother has passed on at age 92. Laura, Barbara, Jenna, and I are sad, but our souls are settled because we know hers was," former President George W. Bush said in a statement Tuesday. "Barbara Bush was a fabulous First Lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity, love, and literacy to millions. To us, she was so much more. Mom kept us on our toes and kept us laughing until the end. I'm a lucky man that Barbara Bush was my mother. Our family will miss her dearly, and we thank you all for your prayers and good wishes."

George H.W. Bush held his wife's hand all day Tuesday and was at her side when she died, according to Jean Becker, chief of staff at George H.W. Bush's office in Houston.

Funeral arrangements weren't immediately released.

"Barbara Bush challenged each of us to build a better world by empowering people through literacy. As only one of two women in American history who can be called First Lady and First Mother, she was matriarch of a family that remains as dedicated to public service as it was to politics," said former Secretary of State and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III.

The publisher's daughter and oilman's wife could be caustic in private, but her public image was that of a self-sacrificing, supportive spouse who referred to her husband as her "hero."

In the White House, "you need a friend, someone who loves you, who's going to say, 'You are great,'" Mrs. Bush said in a 1992 television interview.

Her uncoiffed, matronly appearance often provoked jokes that she looked more like the boyish president's mother than his wife. Late-

night comedians quipped that her bright white hair and pale features also imparted a resemblance to George Washington.

Eight years after leaving the nation's capital, Mrs. Bush stood with her husband as their son George W. was sworn in as president. They returned four years later when he won a second term. Unlike Mrs. Bush, Abigail Adams did not live to see her son's inauguration. She died in 1818, six years before John Quincy Adams was elected.

Mrs. Bush insisted she did not try to influence her husband's politics.

"I don't fool around with his office," she said, "and he doesn't fool around with my household."

In 1984, her quick wit got her into trouble when she was quoted as referring to Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, as "that \$4 million—I can't say it, but it rhymes with rich."

"It was dumb of me. I shouldn't have said it," Mrs. Bush acknowledged in 1988. "It was not attractive, and I've been very shamed. I apologized to Mrs. Ferraro, and I would apologize again."

Daughter-in-law Laura Bush, wife of the 43rd president, said Mrs. Bush was "ferociously tart-tongued."

"She's never shied away from saying what she thinks. ... She's managed to insult nearly all of my friends with one or another perfectly timed acerbic comment," Laura Bush wrote in her 2010 book, "Spoken from the Heart."

In her 1994 autobiography, "Barbara Bush: A Memoir," Mrs. Bush said she did her best to keep her opinions from the public while her husband was in office. But she revealed that she disagreed with him on two issues: She supported legal abortion and opposed the sale of assault weapons.

"I honestly felt, and still feel, the elected person's opinion is the one the public has the right to know," Mrs. Bush wrote.

She also disclosed a bout with depression in the mid-1970s, saying she sometimes feared she would deliberately crash her car. She blamed hormonal changes and stress.

"Night after night, George held me weeping in his arms while I tried to explain my feelings," she wrote. "I almost wonder why he didn't leave me."

She said she snapped out of it in a few months.

Mrs. Bush raised five children: George W., Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. A sixth child, 3-year-old daughter Robin, died of leukemia in 1953.

In a speech in 1985, she recalled the stress of raising a family while married to a man whose ambitions carried him from the Texas oil fields to Congress and into influential political positions that included ambassador to the United Nations, GOP chairman and CIA director.

"This was a period, for me, of long days and short years," she said, "of diapers, runny noses, earaches, more Little League games than you could believe possible, tonsils and those unscheduled races to the hospital emergency room, Sunday school and church, of hours of urging homework or short chubby arms around your neck and sticky kisses."

Along the way, she said, there were also "bumpy moments—not many, but a few—of feeling that I'd never, ever be able to have fun again and coping with the feeling that George Bush, in his excitement of starting a small company and traveling around the world, was having a lot of fun."



Bush

Asia

Korean leaders can talk peace

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Donald Trump has given his “blessing” for North and South Korea to discuss the end of the Korean War amid a diplomatic push to end the North Korean nuclear standoff. One problem: There can be no real talks without the involvement of the other countries that fought the 1950-53 war, and especially the United States.

The reason is that South Korea wasn’t a direct signatory to the armistice that stopped the fighting but left the Korean Peninsula still technically in a state of war.

There’s widespread interest in what South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un plan will talk about during their summit on April 27, which would only be the third such meeting between the countries’ leaders. A separate meeting between Kim and Trump is anticipated in May or June.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China sends warning to Taiwan with naval drills near island

BEIJING (AP)—China’s navy is holding live-fire military exercises in the Taiwan Strait in a warning to the self-ruled island against seeking formal independence after moves by the U.S. to increase support for Taiwan’s government. Few details about Wednesday’s drills have been released by the Chinese government. State broadcaster China Central Television reported Wednesday that the exercises targeted advocates of independence for Taiwan, saying in a headline on its website, “Don’t say you haven’t been warned!” The Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to questions. The maritime safety authority in the coastal province of Fujian announced the Taiwan Strait one-day drill last week. The announcement coincided with President Xi Jinping’s attendance at a massive fleet review last Thursday in the South China Sea off the coast of Hainan province.

Clashes erupt in Pakistan over slain girl; 1 killed

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Clashes broke out in Pakistan on Tuesday between police and protesters angered by the killing of a seven-year-old girl earlier this week, in violence that left one protester dead with a gunshot to the head. Protesters in Karachi

Trump revealed Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea had been holding direct talks at “extremely high levels” in preparation for their summit. Trump also said that North and South Korea are negotiating an end to hostilities before next week’s summit.

“They do have my blessing to discuss the end of the war,” Trump said.

A senior South Korean presidential official said Wednesday that the Koreans plan to use their summit to discuss ending military hostilities, but it wasn’t clear if they’d discuss the end of the war.

“We don’t know yet whether a specific expression like ‘end of the war’ will be used during the inter-Korean summit, but we do wish for an agreement at ending hostilities between the South and North,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

North Korea has long sought a peace treaty with the United

States to formally end the war. Some South Koreans fear that the North could use such a

» But can’t end Korean War

treaty as a pretext for demanding the withdrawal of the 28,500 American troops currently stationed in the South. Some worry that potential discussions to formally end the war may distract from already difficult efforts to rid the North of nuclear weapons and apply robust verification of that process.

The armistice was signed by the U.S.-led United Nations Command, North Korea and China. South Korea was a member of the U.N. Command but was not a direct signatory.

In their previous summit in 2007, the Koreans declared a commitment toward ending the war and vowed to pursue discussions with others. But the efforts faltered and the relations between the rivals worsened after a conservative government took office in Seoul in February 2008.

threw stones at police, who say they responded by firing tear gas and gunshots into the air. The police say 17 people, mostly police, were wounded in the clashes. The protesters accuse the police of negligence in the case. Senior police officer Amir Farooq says the girl went missing two days ago, and that her body was found Monday. He says the initial forensics report suggests she was raped before being strangled.

Pakistan convicts ex-judge, wife of torturing child servant

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani high court convicted a former judge and his wife of torturing a 10-year-old child working as a servant at their home and sentenced them to a year in prison on Tuesday. Justice Aamer Farooq of the Islamabad High Court also fined the couple—former deputy district judge Raja Khurram and his wife Maheen—the sum of 100,000 Pakistani rupees, about \$900. The case of the girl, Tayyaba, first made headlines when police rescued her in 2016 from the judge’s residence in Islamabad, following complaints from neighbors. Initially her parents struck a deal to pardon the couple but the Supreme Court, which also acts as a supervisory tribunal, ordered a retrial. Prosecutor Tariq Jahangiri said the verdict was reached after a retrial that lasted one year. Later, the convicted couple was granted

bail by the same court. Their defense attorney, Rizwan Abbasi, said the bail was granted against bonds of 50,000 rupees each to allow them to appeal the conviction. Abbasi said he will file the appeal in the country’s Supreme Court.

Myanmar’s president grants amnesty to over 8,500 prisoners

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar President Win Myint has granted amnesty to more than 8,500 prisoners, reportedly including at least three dozen political prisoners. The amnesty, announced Tuesday, coincided with Myanmar’s traditional New Year. It was granted to 8,490 Myanmar citizens and 51 foreigners. A statement from presidential spokesman Zaw Thay said those released included the aged, people in ill health and drug offenders. None was individually named. It also said 36 of those freed had been listed as political prisoners by the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. The releases were to take place at prisons nationwide. Relatives and friends of those held waited Tuesday outside the gates at Insein Prison, in the northern outskirts of Yangon, where it was expected that more than 300 prisoners, including eight political detainees, would be released. As they came through the gate, the released prisoners looked excited, though many were reluctant to be interviewed.

World

Syria envoy says UN security team visits alleged attack site

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian media said international chemical weapons inspectors on Tuesday entered the town of Douma, where an alleged poison gas attack was carried out earlier this month, but a Syrian diplomat said later that only a U.N. security team visited the Damascus suburb.

The reported attack led to Western airstrikes against the Syrian government over the weekend.

Syria’s U.N. ambassador, Bashar Ja’afari, told the Security Council that the U.N. team went to Douma to decide whether investigators from the international chemical weapons watchdog could safely visit the site. If the team decides “the situation is sound,” the fact-finding mission from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will start work there Wednesday, Ja’afari said.

The team’s entry into Douma came 10 days after the alleged attack, raising concerns that any evidence the inspectors find could be useless.

On Monday, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu said Syrian and Russian authorities had blocked its inspectors from going to Douma and instead offered them 22 people to interview as witnesses. The team ar-



AP
In this Monday, April 16, 2018 photo, people look out of their damage apartment windows just meters away from where the alleged chemical weapons attack occurred in the town of Douma, the site of a suspected chemical weapons attack, near Damascus, Syria.

rived in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Saturday.

Journalists in Damascus were prevented by government minders from contacting the OPCW inspectors, and The Hague-based organization refused to comment on “operational details regarding the Douma deployment.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was the “obligation of the Syrian government to provide all the conditions for (OPCW inspectors) to work without any restrictions.”

British Prime Minister Theresa May accused the Syrian government and its ally Russia of trying to cov-

er up evidence and obstruct the investigation.

The OPCW is investigating reports that government forces gassed sites in Douma on April 7, when the town was still held by rebels and home to tens of thousands of people—residents and others who were displaced by fighting elsewhere.

Syrian activists said more than 40 people were killed in the alleged attack.

Less than two days later, the Army of Islam rebels surrendered the town, which was the last stronghold in the once rebellious eastern Ghouta region at the doorstep of Damascus.

Suspect in Iceland’s ‘Big Bitcoin Heist’ escapes prison

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—A prisoner in Iceland suspected of masterminding the theft of about 600 computers that were being used to mine bitcoin and other virtual currencies escaped custody and fled Tuesday on a passenger plane that a witness said also carried the remote North Atlantic nation’s prime minister.

Police said surveillance footage showed a suspect they identified as Sindri Thor Stefansson boarding a flight to Sweden at Iceland’s international airport in Keflavik. They said he traveled under a passport in someone else’s name.

“He had an accomplice,” Police Chief Gunnar Schram told Visir, an online news outlet in Iceland. “We are sure of that.”

Investigators think Stefansson left the low-security prison where he recently had been transferred through a window early Tuesday. Guards did not report him missing until after the flight to Sweden had taken off.

Stefansson was among 11

people arrested earlier this year for allegedly stealing the powerful computer in Iceland’s biggest thefts. The stolen equipment, which still is missing, has been valued at almost \$2 million. Icelandic media have the case the “Big Bitcoin Heist.”

If the stolen equipment is used for its original purpose—to create new bitcoins—the thieves could turn a massive profit in an untraceable currency without ever selling the items.

The escaped prisoner was being held at the Sogn prison in rural southern Iceland, located some 95 kilometers (59 miles) from the airport. The prison is unfenced and inmates there have telephone and internet access.

Stefansson had been in custody since February. He was moved to the open prison 10 days ago, police said.

A passenger on the flight that the escaped inmate allegedly caught to Sweden told national broadcaster RUV that Iceland’s prime

minister, Katrin Jakobsdottir, was also on the plane. Jakobsdottir was among five Nordic prime ministers who met with India’s prime minister Tuesday in Stockholm.

The prime minister’s presence, the witness said, was the only unusual thing about that flight.

The escape is yet another twist in a criminal case without parallel on the peaceful island nation with a population of 340,000 and one of the world’s lowest crime rates. Police commissioner Olafur Helgi Kjartansson told The Associated Press in March it was “a grand theft on a scale unseen before.”

Police have arrested 22 people altogether, including a security guard, without solving the burglaries.

Blessed with an abundance of renewable energy, Iceland has emerged as a popular base for large virtual currency companies that use massive amounts of electricity running the computers that create bitcoins.

Focus

Raul Castro leaves Cuba with new freedoms, deep problems

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAVANA (AP)—In 2008 Raul Castro took over a country where most people couldn't own computers or cellphones, leave without permission, run most types of private businesses or enter resort hotels.

Castro set about re-engineering the system he had helped create and Cuba opened dramatically over his decade in office. But when Castro steps down Thursday after two terms as president he will leave his successor a host of problems that are deeper than on the day his brother Fidel formally handed over power.

Cuba has nearly 600,000 private entrepreneurs, more than 5 million cellphones, a bustling real estate market and one of the world's fastest-growing airports. Limited internet use is expanding fast, with thousands of Cubans installing new home connections this year. Foreign debt has been paid. Tourism numbers have more than doubled since Castro and President Barack Obama re-established diplomatic relations in 2015, making Cuba a destination for nearly 5 million visitors a year, despite a plunge in relations under the Trump administration.

On the other side of the ledger, Cuba's Soviet-style command economy still employs three of every four Cuban workers but produces little. Private sector growth has been largely frozen. The average monthly state salary is \$31—so low that workers often live on stolen goods and handouts from relatives overseas. Foreign investment remains anemic. The island's infrastructure is falling deeper into disrepair. The break with Washington dashed dreams of detente with the U.S., and after two decades of getting Venezuelan subsidies totaling more than \$6 billion a year, Cuba's patron has collapsed economically with no replacement in the wings.

Castro's inability or unwillingness to fix Cuba's structural problems with deep and wide-ranging reforms has many wondering how a successor without Castro's founding father credentials will manage the country over the next five or 10 years.

"People in Cuba really haven't processed yet what it means to have a government without Raul or Fidel leading it," said Yassel Padron Kunakbaeva, a prolific 27-year-old



In this Jan. 28, 2018 file photo, Cuba's President Raul Castro looks at his watch as he walks with Cuba's Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, right, and National Assembly of People's Power President Esteban Lazo Hernandez, left, to the unveiling of a replica of a statue of Cuba's independence hero Jose Marti in Havana, Cuba.

blogger who writes frequently from what he describes as a Marxist, revolutionary perspective. "We're entering unknown territory."

Tens of thousands of highly educated professionals are abandoning the island each year, leaving Cuba with the combination of third-world economy and the demographics of a graying European nation. After a 2016 recession, Cuba said growth was 1.6 percent last year, although official accounts remain opaque and questioned by experts. The single-party government controls virtually all forms of expression and organization, with near-zero tolerance of public criticism or dissent. The mood on the street is pessimistic, with few expecting a better future anytime soon.

"The political future of whoever takes over in April depends on the economic question," said Jose Raul Viera Linares, a former first deputy minister of foreign affairs. "It's the possibility for young people to dream, to design their own future. That's all based in the material wealth that this country is able to achieve."

The greatest immediate challenge for Castro's expected successor—57-year-old Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez—is unwinding a byzantine dual-currency system featuring one type of Cuban peso worth 4 cents and

another that is nearly a dollar. The system was designed to insulate a state-run, egalitarian internal market using "national money" from trade with the outside world denominated in "convertible pesos."

The barrier between the two worlds swiftly collapsed and the system has fostered big economic distortions. Inefficient state enterprises receive mammoth subsidies by obtaining expensive convertible pesos for the price of the cheaper "Cuban peso." The dual-currency system also allows private businesses to receive subsidized goods and services like water and electricity in Cuban pesos, then turn around and charge their relatively wealthy clients in convertible pesos at a significant profit.

Castro called for elimination of the dual currencies from the beginning of his presidency, but never got around to it. Unlike his brother Fidel, who extended his time in office until illness forced him to retire, Raul has long made clear that he would step down as president in 2018 as part of a coordinated handoff to a new generation of leaders.

He will remain first secretary of the Communist Party, the country's guiding body, but many Cubans expect him to move into semi-retirement in Santiago, the largest city in Cuba's east, where he was

born and led rebel troops in the country's 1959 revolution.

In one of his final speeches last year he called once again for the system's urgent elimination, a process that many expect to start in Diaz-Canel's first year in power. Eliminating dual currency is widely seen as necessary for Cuba's economy to grow, but it carries risks of inflation and major disruption for inefficient state businesses whose subsidized balance sheets will finally become understandable when they are denominated in a single currency.

Those state businesses gained new competitors as Castro expanded the space for capitalism in the Cuban economy by permitting private enterprise in dozens of fields ranging from agriculture to hospitality to construction.

"We've risen up economically. The new possibilities have changed my life, of course," said Yanelis Garcia, a 44-year-old mother of three who saved money from raising pigs in her backyard to slowly build a prosperous six-room bed-and-breakfast and taxi business in the central city of Santa Clara. "I've always liked having my own business to be able to provide for my family. It's been really good."

Cubans fill thousands of flights a year to Miami, Panama and Cancun, where they cram duffel bags with gym

socks and Xboxes for the vibrant private sector and rising middle class. But last August, the Cuban government froze new licenses for private bed-and-breakfasts, restaurants and other popular businesses, leaving many Cubans questioning how their government envisions a path to prosperity.

"We've seen necessary reforms and I think that in the future there will have to be more," said Norma Chiang, a 77-year-old state accountant and auditor. "Self-employment needs to be broadened, little things like bakeries or food stands that can be in the hands of individuals and not the state."

Despite the image of Raul Castro as an all-powerful military strongman, many Cubans say back-and-forth moves and the overall slow pace of reform have shown the difficulty of modernizing a Soviet-era bureaucracy controlled by hundreds of thousands of civil servants who would be threatened by a transition into a market economy, a difficulty Castro's successor will also face.

"No one dares to disobey Raul to his face. They quietly don't get things done and search for ways to cover their backs so no one can accuse them of not getting things done," Padron said.

Cuba's next president also must find a way to make its economy grow while maintaining social stability and sat-

isfying the millions of Cubans who depend on the state and a shrinking list of subsidized essentials sold in Cuban pesos for their survival. While Cuba sees Russia as one of its closest allies, Cuba's leaders are desperate to prevent the sort of shock transition to capitalism that marked the end of the Soviet Union.

"I can't eat, dress myself and live on \$20 a month," said Adela Arpajon, a 54-year-old accountant for the Communist Party. "I either eat or buy clothes. It's hard, but that's the way it is."

Wariness of disruption is exacerbated by Cuba's increasing economic dependence on the Cuban emigres and exiles once seen by the Communist government as a threat to its survival.

As part of his broader immigration reforms, Raul Castro changed Cuba's relationship with its diaspora by allowing Cubans to maintain their rights to own property and receive social benefits as long as they return once every two years. That change fueled the growth of a new class of Cubans who earn money overseas but invest at home and are responsible for hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars in small-scale investment on the island in recent years.

More than 20,000 Cuban emigres have "repatriated" and regained their property rights since the emigration reforms, according to Cuban figures. Still, the flow of emigres back to Cuba is swamped by the outward flood of Cubans unleashed by Castro's elimination of the hated exit permit known as the "white card." According to U.S. Homeland Security statistics, the United States admitted 463,502 Cubans between 2006 and 2016, with tens of thousands more heading to countries such as Spain and Ecuador.

"I don't think people have realized how momentous that is in terms of for the first time having circular migration," said Lisandro Perez, an expert on the Cuban diaspora at New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "They take back things, they finance private restaurants. It's a totally different ballgame."

Castro's successor will have to manage the delicate relationship with Cuba's prosperous exiles at a time when relations with the U.S. have dropped from an unprecedented high under President Barack Obama to a deep low under President Donald Trump.

Environment

New rules would make it easier to find oil—and noisier for whales

By ROSANNA XIA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The search for offshore oil begins with a boom.

Before the oil rigs arrive and the boring begins, operators need to fire intense seismic blasts repeatedly into the ocean to find oil deposits.

For decades, environmental rules that protected whales and other marine life from this cacophony have limited the location and frequency of these blasts — preventing oil companies from exploring, and therefore operating, off much of the nation's coasts.

Now those safeguards are being dismantled.

The push to change seismic survey rules has not attracted the same public attention as the Trump administration's interest in opening coastal waters to dozens of new drilling leases or downsizing protected marine areas. But it could have wide implications beyond enabling new oil operations.

Winding their way through Congress are two bills that supporters say would create jobs, reduce permitting delays and clear the way for naval activities and coastal restoration.

But environmentalists call them a thinly veiled oil industry wish list that would upend established protections and fast-track the permitting process for oil exploration off the Atlantic, much of Alaska and off California.

"So much legislation like this just goes under the radar," said Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., ranking minority-party member of the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. "It's a scorched earth effort right now across the whole of federal public policy to give things away to the oil and gas industry."

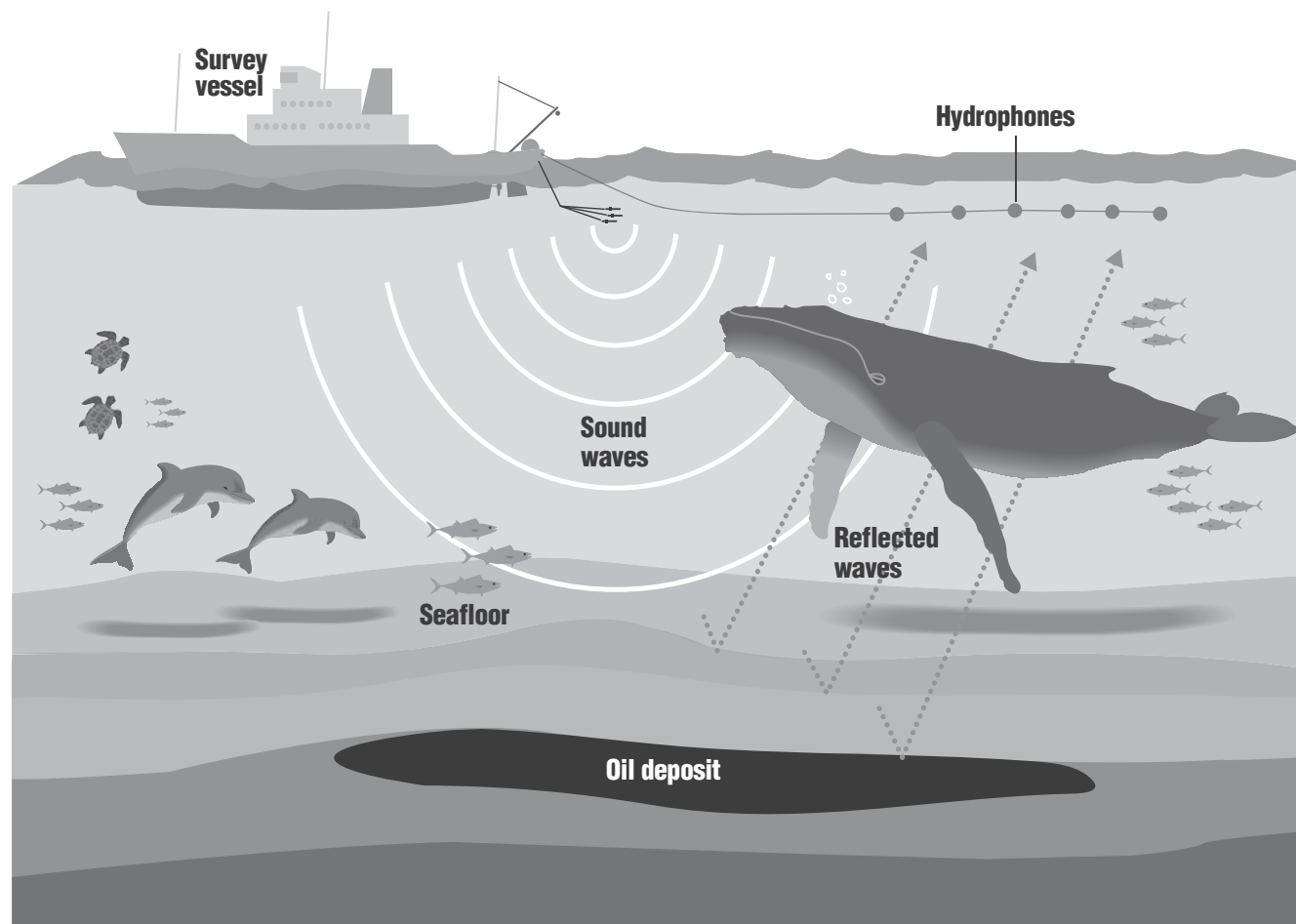
The bills have passed committee and could go to a full vote any day.

They target core provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which regulates seismic blasts used to locate oil and gas. The noise, scientists say, can disorient and damage the hearing of whales and dolphins so badly that they lose their ability to navigate and reproduce.

The bills follow other subtle undoings that opponents have linked to prioritizing energy over conservation. President Donald Trump, in his budget proposal, had pushed to cut all funding for the Marine Mammal Commission, an advisory group that provides scientific expertise during the review process for proposed oil activities. (Funding was restored

How seismic surveys work

A survey ship with multiple airguns fires continuous blasts of compressed air into the ocean, creating high-energy sound pulses that penetrate and bounce off the geology beneath the seafloor. The reflected sound waves are picked up by sensors towed behind the vessel, painting a picture of potential oil and gas deposits.



Not to scale

Sources: Michael Stocker of Ocean Conservation Research, USGS, International Assn. of Geophysical Contractors, Oceana

Graphic: Paul Duginski, Los Angeles Times, TNS

in last month's budget deals.)

"It's like burning down the jail, eliminating all the laws and then shooting the court and jury," said Richard Charter, senior fellow at the Ocean Foundation. "This is a time of setbacks, but undoing the Marine Mammal Protection Act is one of the most damaging things that Congress could possibly do right now."

Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., who introduced the Sea Act, rejected assertions that his bill was driven by oil. In a statement, his office said "there's a large campaign of misinformation against the Sea Act filled with misleading rhetoric. The Sea Act makes absolutely no changes to the protections established by the (Marine Mammal Protection Act). Any suggestion otherwise is blatantly false."

The changes would eliminate "cross-agency, duplicative regulations" that cause permitting delays, said his spokeswoman, Ainsley Holyfield. They were introduced after Johnson discovered "this very issue had halted coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana and naval operations off the coast."

Johnson's proposals are also included in a broader bill by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., that "overhauls federal lands energy policy to

promote expanded exploration, development and production of oil, gas and wind resources," according to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

This push in Congress comes after Trump's executive order last year, which reversed an Obama administration decision that denied six companies seeking permits to conduct testing in the Atlantic. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has called for seismic tests to get the new data needed for energy expansion.

"Allowing this scientific pursuit enables us to safely identify and evaluate resources that belong to the American people," Zinke said. "This will play an important role in the president's strategy to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources."

The issue has been tricky for some Republicans, particularly those representing coastal districts where offshore drilling is unpopular.

Some have spoken up. Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., in a bipartisan letter last year, said seismic testing posed a direct threat to economies that rely on fishing, tourism and recreation.

"We hear from countless business owners, elected officials and residents along our coasts who recognize and

reject the risks of offshore oil and gas development," said the letter, signed by dozens of Congress members. "It harms our coastal economies in the near term and opens the door to even greater risks from offshore oil and gas production down the road."

Seismic surveying involves a ship firing blasts of pressurized air to create powerful sound pulses that penetrate beneath the seafloor. The sound waves that bounce back are picked up by sensors, painting a picture of potential oil deposits. Below the surface, the explosions sound like bombs going off every 10 to 15 seconds and can be heard as far as 1,500 miles, audio recordings show.

They threaten a number of species, including the blue whales that visit California's coast and the dwindling number of right whales in the North Atlantic. Whales aren't easy to study — they're difficult to count, hard to track and impractical to examine. But by analyzing their behavior, scientists have found that blasts can throw off their ability to find food, avoid predators and find mates.

Oil and gas supporters say the research isn't conclusive and that the best available science does not indicate that surveying damages the overall marine population.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act — signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972, at a time when protecting marine life from overfishing and overhunting was a priority across party lines — makes it illegal to harm or kill a whale, dolphin, seal, manatee, sea otter or polar bear without a permit, even if done inadvertently.

Obtaining a seismic testing permit under the law can take years and requires companies to show that their operations will have the "least practicable impact" on only "small numbers" of animals. Mitigation measures are strict and err on the side of precaution; ships have to turn off the blasts if whales are seen nearby.

The new bill drops the "small numbers" and "least practicable impact" conditions, and requires automatic approval of a permit if a review is not complete within 120 days. It deletes the requirement for a permit to be contained within a specific geographic region, expanding it to most anywhere off any coast.

Industry groups such as the International Association of Geophysical Contractors endorse the changes as much-needed modernization of a law that has "hampered (seismic surveying) by extreme environmental advocacy groups that abuse existing regulatory

and litigation processes."

Words like "negligible impact" and "small numbers" are ambiguous and would create an approval system that is biased and can delay permits for years, said the group's president, Nikki Martin. "This is unwarranted and represents a complete bureaucratic breakdown in an otherwise straightforward process by federal agencies."

(EDITORS: BEGIN OPTIONAL TRIM)

Companies that want to conduct surveys must first get permits from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. If the surveys would have any potential to harm marine mammals, the companies must obtain additional authorization from at least one, often two, federal wildlife agencies.

(END OPTIONAL TRIM)

Industry groups say seismic surveys have been safely conducted around the world for decades. Technology today is even more advanced, they say, and could point to an estimated 90 billion barrels of undiscovered oil and more than 320 trillion cubic feet of natural gas off U.S. shores.

Those statements have galvanized a broad opposition, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Oceana, Ocean Conservation Research, Greenpeace USA, Surfrider Foundation and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

"If it's the whales now, it's the fish next. We are literally killing the ocean just by exploring for oil," said Noah Oppenheim, the fishing group's executive director. "This is really 99.9 percent of ocean stakeholders versus the 0.1 percent, the oil industry."

Rep. Alan Lowenthal of California, the ranking Democratic member of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, said the current regulation currently is "not a broken system" and has both protected marine life while also allowing some seismic testing.

From 2011 through 2016, regulators reviewed 297 applications and issued 264 seismic survey permits, according to a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Most were in the Gulf of Mexico, with pressure growing to expand operations in Alaska and along the Atlantic. California has fought off new oil drilling operations since 1969, when a 100,000-barrel spill in Santa Barbara killed thousands of seabirds and helped spark the modern environmental movement.

Life & Style

Stormy Daniels' big reveal: sketch of man who threatened her

By CATHERINE LUCEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stormy Daniels injected fresh mystery into the sensational story of the president, the fixer and the porn star on Tuesday, releasing an artist's sketch of the man she says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot to stay quiet about her sexual tryst with Donald Trump.

After teasing the reveal for more than a week, the adult film actress appeared on ABC's "The View" to unveil an image of the man she says menaced her and her young

daughter and warned her in 2011 to keep quiet about a 2006 encounter with Trump. Upping the stakes, her attorney, Michael Avenatti, pledged a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the man's identification.

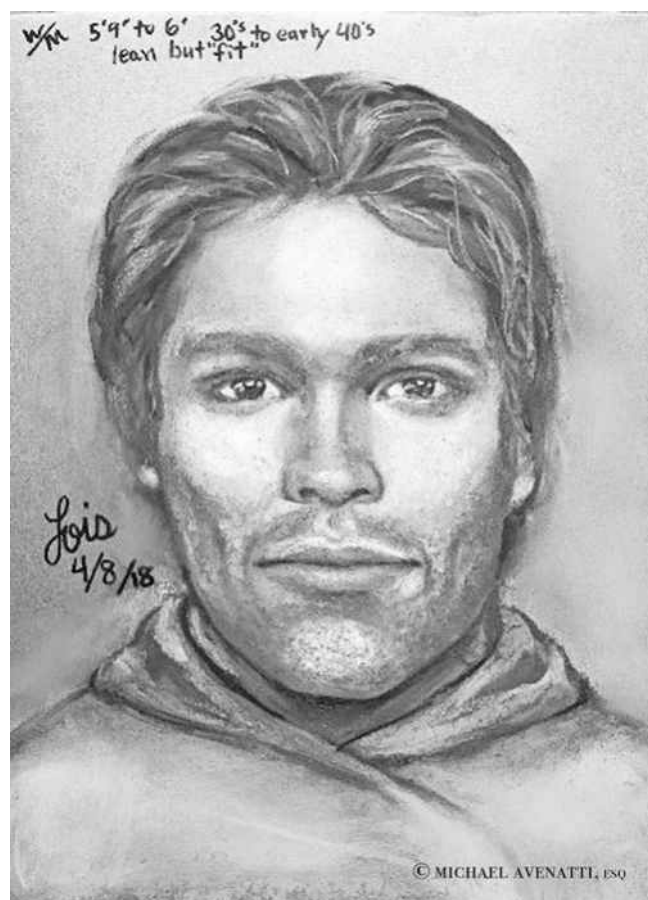
While the mad internet scramble to identify the man added to the circus atmosphere surrounding the president's legal troubles, the development also kept a spotlight on what Trump views as an increasingly serious threat: the federal investigation into his longtime image protector.

Daniels says that Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, paid her \$130,000 just before the 2016 election to keep quiet about her relationship with the GOP nominee. The

case took on new significance last week when FBI agents raided Cohen's office, looking for information on topics including the payment to Daniels. Both Daniels and Cohen were in court in New York City on Monday, as a U.S. District judge heard debate over what should happen to those records.

On Tuesday, Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, said she was speaking out because she was "done being bullied."

Recalling the alleged threat, Daniels said she and her daughter were approached in a parking lot by a man who said: "Oh it's a beautiful little girl, would be a shame if something happened to her mom. Forget about this story, leave Mr. Trump alone."



AP
This artist's drawing released by attorney Michael Avenatti, purports to show the man that the adult film actress Stormy Daniels says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011 to remain quiet about her affair with President Donald Trump.

player Tom Brady, musician Jon Bon Jovi and actor Willem Dafoe.

Even some Trump allies got in on the action. After a Twitter posting showed the sketch next to a photo of short-lived White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, the always camera-ready figure known as "the Mooch" joked that he wasn't tall enough to match the description: "I thought the description said he was 6'2"! I am all good."

Daniels insisted she remembered the years-prior parking lot encounter vividly, in part because the man was "sort of handsome."

Building suspense, Avenatti recently tweeted a photo he said showed Daniels sitting with a sketch artist. He set up a suitably pugnacious email address to receive information from tipsters—idhethug@gmail.com—and said later Tuesday that he had already received hundreds of tips.

Lawsuit leads to revelations about David Copperfield's act

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jurors got a rare behind-the-scenes look at a David Copperfield disappearing act Tuesday during testimony in a negligence lawsuit involving a British man who claims he was badly hurt when he fell while participating in a 2013 Las Vegas show.

The magician's friend and executive producer, Chris Kenner, revealed to jurors the mystery behind a signature Copperfield illusion that appeared to make about a dozen audience members vanish together onstage.

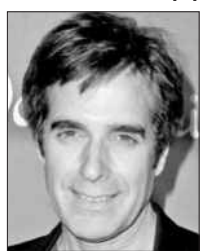
Practiced stagehands with flashlights hurried randomly chosen participants through dark curtains, down unfamiliar passageways, around corners, outdoors, indoors and through an MGM Grand resort kitchen in time to re-enter the back of the theater for their "reappearance" during the show finale, Kenner testified.

"Is that route an obstacle course?" asked Benedict Morelli, attorney for Gavin Cox, a resident of Kent, England, who claims lasting brain and bodily injuries from his fall have cost him more than \$400,000 in medical care.

No, said Kenner, whose company, Backstage Employment and Referral Inc., is also a defendant in the case.

Copperfield's lawyers lost pretrial bids to close proceedings to the public to avoid giving away performance secrets. MGM Grand Hotel attorney Jerry Popovich said Tuesday the illusion is no longer used to close the show.

Morelli asked Kenner whether stagehands and Copperfield visually assessed the physical fitness and footwear of audience members randomly picked to participate



Copperfield

in the trick dubbed "the runaround."

Magicians, media members and lawyers were disqualified to protect the secrecy of the trick that Kenner estimated Copperfield performed tens of thousands of times over 20 years.

"At no time are they told what they're going to do before they start this illusion," Morelli asked Kenner. "They're told as they're running the route, correct?"

Yes, Kenner replied.

Kenner declined to say it was dangerous to lead people along a dark and unknown route over changing floor surfaces of linoleum, cement, carpet, sidewalk and tile. The lawyer noted that before Cox fell, the group hustled through an alley coated with what Morelli called construction dust.

Police: Man arrested at Taylor Swift house had knife, rope

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Colorado man who was wearing a mask and had a knife in his car when he was arrested outside a Beverly Hills home owned by Taylor Swift was released from custody on Tuesday while police continued their investigation.

Julius Sandrock, 38, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of stalking after officers went to the home. Swift, who lives in New York, wasn't at the home, police said.

Sandrock was freed from jail on Tuesday morning, according to a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department website.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Sandrock had a lawyer. Meanwhile, police obtained a temporary restraining order preventing Sandrock from possessing guns.

According to the document, Sandrock was wearing a mask and rubber gloves when he was taken into custody and told police he had driven from his home in Broomfield, Colorado, to see Swift.

Sandrock told officers he owned three handguns and was on probation in Colorado for firing one, police said.

A search of his car turned up a knife, rope, ammunition and more masks and gloves, ac-

cording to the restraining order.

Prescription medications, including oxycodone, were also found and Sandrock told arresting officers that he had depression, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and manic episodes, according to the document.

The arrest followed the April 8 arrest of a homeless man on suspicion of trespassing after he tried to climb a wall at the same property and ignored warnings by security guards to leave.

Swift was not at the home.

Justin Lilly, 23, was charged with a misdemeanor and sentenced to three days in jail.

Kendrick Lamar's Pulitzer win hailed as 'big for music'

NEW YORK (AP)—The decision to award rapper Kendrick Lamar the Pulitzer Prize for music represents a historic moment for hip-hop and American music, according to two of the music jurors who picked the album "DAMN." as a finalist.

"It's big for hip-hop. I think it's big for our country. It's big for music. But it's big for the Pulitzers, too. Institutions are not stuck in time, either. Institutions can change," said Farah Jasmine Griffin, a Columbia professor.

Lamar's win on Monday made history as the first non-classical or non-jazz artist to win the prestigious prize since the Pulitzers included music in 1943. Just having a rapper nominated for the prize is considered a stunning development for awards that usually honor musicians of European classical background.

"I knew that there would be some anger and some resentment and some people who wouldn't like the idea, but surprisingly enough, I haven't heard a lot of that," Griffin said.

Another jury member was Grammy-nominated violinist Regina Carter, who linked the

award to the recent waves of people speaking up, pushing boundaries and refusing to be told what and what is not worthy. "Great art has to be acknowledged," she said. "If a work is great enough, you can't deny it."

The decision was hailed as a turning point in music history by Jetro Da Silva, a professor at the prestigious Berklee College of Music who teaches a class on hip-hop writing and production.

"We are at a time in history here perhaps there is a new way to analyze what is considered a contribution to music. Critical thinkers are asking what it really means to be a composer and what is a composition," he said. "The sky's the limit."

In addition to Griffin and Carter, the music jury this year included music critic David Hajdu, Paul Cremo from the Metropolitan Opera and the composer David Lang.

The five-member music jury listened to about 180 pieces of music and after deliberating for a few days then submitted to the final board three works—Lamar's album along with Mi-

chael Gilbertson's "Quartet" and Ted Hearne's "Sound from the Bench." Adding "DAMN." was a unanimous decision by all five.

"Everyone expects that there would have been some form of resistance. There was none," said Griffin. "It was just welcomed by everyone as an opportunity to have a serious conversation about the art, about Mr. Lamar's work, but also about what constitutes what kind of music that should be eligible for this."

The final decision was made by the Pulitzer board, which hailed Lamar's CD as "a virtuosic song collection unified by its vernacular authenticity and rhythmic dynamism that offers affecting vignettes capturing the complexity of modern African-American life."

Carter admits she quietly thought to herself that the board was unlikely to give the award to Lamar. "Although we all strongly agreed that this would be such an important step—if this were to really happen—I just didn't think it would, really." She said she was happily shocked by the final decision.

Jury to hear Bill Cosby's testimony about quaaludes, sex

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jurors could soon hear Bill Cosby's explosive testi-

mony about giving quaaludes to women before sex—an old admission that's taken on new

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

MTV's Video Music Awards are heading back to New York

NEW YORK (AP)—After spending a year in California, the MTV Video Music Awards are coming back to the East Coast. The network announced Tuesday that the 2018 VMAs will be held Aug. 20 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Last year's ceremony was held in Inglewood, California, and the year before it was at New York's Madison Square Garden. Radio City Music Hall was the home of the inaugural VMAs in 1984.

DiCaprio to present Scorsese with award at TCM Film Festival

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio will present his friend and col-

laborator Martin Scorsese the inaugural Robert Osborne Award for his contributions in keeping classic film relevant. Turner Classic Movies says Tuesday that DiCaprio will present the award on the opening night of the TCM Classic Film Festival on April 26 in Hollywood at the TCL Chinese Theater. DiCaprio has starred in five of Scorsese's films starting with "Gangs of New York" in 2002. Their other collaborations include "The Departed," "The Aviator," "Shutter Island" and "The Wolf of Wall Street." The TCM Classic Film Festival is now in its ninth year. The event kicks off with the Robert Osborne Award presentation followed by a special screening of "The Producers," which Mel Brooks will be on hand to introduce.



AP
Bill Cosby departs after his sexual assault trial, Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

sexual encounter with Constand.

"I'm giving Andrea time to say 'yes' or 'no' about an area that is right there in the question zone," Cosby testified.

The unsealing of the deposition, at the request of The Associated Press, led prosecutors to reopen Cosby's criminal case and shredded his good-guy persona as America's Dad.

Prosecutors won the right to introduce it at his retrial on charges he drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia home. The deposition also was included at Cosby's first trial, which ended with a hung jury last year.

Montgomery County Detective James Reape, who has been working on the Cosby investigation since it was reopened in 2015, told jurors he wasn't concerned about inconsistencies the defense played up in Constand's story—such as her early uncertainty over the date of the alleged assault—because Cosby's testimony had filled in many of the blanks.

"The defendant said it happened. The defendant said it happened in 2004. The defendant said he was present. The defendant admitted to the contact that she said happened," Reape told jurors. "When I look at who, what, when, where, why in 2015, I'm able to see the answers."

The Associated Press doesn't typically identify people who say they're victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

significance at the comedian's sexual assault retrial after a half-dozen women testified that he drugged and violated them.

Prosecutors are expected to read a transcript of the 2005 testimony as early as Wednesday, saving for the very end of their case Cosby's own words about using the 1970s party drug "the same as a person would say, 'Have a drink.'"

"Quaaludes happen to be the drug that kids, young people were using to party with, and there were times when I wanted to have them just in case," Cosby testified in the deposition, given as part of a lawsuit chief accuser Andrea Constand filed against him.

Cosby settled the lawsuit in 2006 for nearly \$3.4 million.

Cosby, now 80, said in the deposition that he obtained seven prescriptions for quaaludes from his doctor in Los Angeles in the 1970s, ostensibly for a sore back.

The drug was banned in the U.S. in 1982, the same year one of the women who testified, Janice Baker-Kinney, al-

leges Cosby knocked her out with pills she suspected to be quaaludes and then raped her.

Judge Steven O'Neill waited until Tuesday to rule that prosecutors could have the "Cosby Show" star's deposition testimony read into the record, handing the prosecution a key victory in its effort to portray the comedian as a serial predator.

Prosecutors unleashed other passages from Cosby's graphic deposition, including his accounts of sexual encounters with Constand and how he apologized to her mother a year later for being "a dirty old man with a young girl."

They used another of Cosby's statements, one he gave to police in 2005, to show how he described the encounter for which he is facing aggravated indecent assault charges that could send him to prison for years.

Cosby said he gave Constand 1½ tablets of the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl to help her relax, then fondled her breasts and genitals, according to the police tran-

script, which also was read to the jury on Tuesday.

Cosby said Constand never told him to stop and has maintained that the encounter was consensual.

"We are petting. I enjoyed it," the TV star said, according to the transcript. "And then I stopped, and I went up to bed. We stopped, and then we talked."

Constand says Cosby knocked her out with the pills and then sexually assaulted her, penetrating her with his fingers and guiding her hand to his penis. Cosby told police he didn't remember whether Constand touched his genitals.

Prosecutors also have several more witnesses to call. They include Judith Regan, who published Cosby accuser Janice Dickinson's memoir, Constand's lawyer Bebe Kivitz and a pharmacology expert.

Jurors got a sense of Cosby's view of consent when the comedian described in the deposition testimony reaching an area "somewhere between permission and rejection" during what he claims was a prior

Steven Spielberg taking on DC Universe film 'Blackhawk'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Spielberg is flying into the DC Universe with the World War II action adventure "Blackhawk."

Warner Bros. Chairman Toby Emmerich says Tuesday that the legendary filmmaker will produce and may direct the film for the studio.

The "Blackhawk" series started in 1941 and follows a group of ace WWII-era pilots as they fight evils, including the Axis powers.

"Jurassic Park" and "War



Spielberg

of the Worlds" screenwriter David Koepp is writing the script.

Spielberg recently collaborated with Warner Bros. on the futuristic adventure "Ready Player One" which

has made over \$476 million worldwide.

The Oscar-winning director has a few projects on his plate first, however, including the fifth "Indiana Jones" and "West Side Story."

No release date has been set for "Blackhawk."

Brother's fiancée is unaware of his hidden opiate addiction

DEAR ABBY: My divorced 38-year-old brother is addicted to opiates. My wealthy, enabling mother constantly bails him out financially. My brother is engaged to a very kind woman—a mother of three he met four months ago. She's not aware of his lies, manipulations, debt and pill addiction.

My brother has already destroyed a previous marriage with his actions, and I'm finding it difficult to sit back and let this happen to yet another innocent woman. I am tired of lying for him, and I know that eventually this will come to a head. Do I come forward with the truth now and possibly harm their relationship, or watch them go through with this marriage and hope for the best?

UNSURE IN NASHVILLE, TENN.

DEAR UNSURE: Be prepared for the eruption that is sure to follow, but for the sake of those children, let the woman know what she will be dealing with if she goes through with the marriage. Whether she heeds your warning will be up to her, but at least she will know what she's in for.

DEAR ABBY: My teenage son and daughter confided to me that their younger cousin (15) has been posting on social media that she's hanging out with men who are five years older and taking her mother's car without her knowledge. My

teens have both warned her that she's making poor choices, but she won't listen.

It doesn't help that there is no father around, and her mother doesn't know how to say "no." My teens are very concerned. As the girl's uncle, I need advice on how to intervene.

PRIVY TO A BAD SITUATION

DEAR PRIVY: It's definitely time for some adult intervention. If you are at all close with your niece, talk with her about how dangerous what she's doing is—not only to herself, but also the men she's been seeing because they could land in jail. While you're at it, tell her mother what you know so she can hide her car keys before her daughter gets into a serious accident and hurts herself or someone else.

DEAR ABBY: When my wife introduces me at a company event and/or party, she says, "This is my husband, 'Philip'; he's a teacher." I am uncomfortable being introduced that way because people have the preconceived notion that being a teacher defines who I am (which it does not).

I have pointed out that people are not usually introduced with their careers, unless they are doctors. My wife says I'm "overreacting." I have asked her to stop doing it, but she thinks I'm just being silly. Your thoughts/comments on our discussion would

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



be greatly appreciated.

MORE THAN A TEACHER IN ARIZONA

DEAR MORE: You and your wife have a bigger problem than how she introduces you. You are married to someone who dismisses and belittles your feelings. Whether you are overreacting is beside the point. If you prefer not to be introduced the way she is doing it, she should have enough respect for you to comply with your request.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



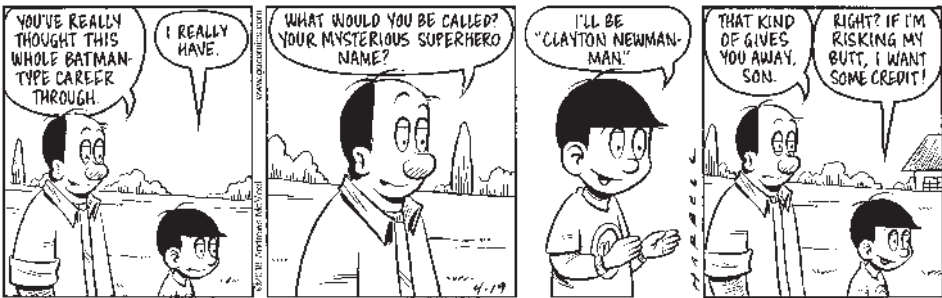
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Believe" singer

5 Alger's "before"

9 LAPD alert

12 River to the Seine

13 Caesar's "vidi"

14 Shade

15 Leader of the pack

17 Flamenco cheer

18 Hermits

19 Pharaoh's land

21 @

22 Fact

24 Unruly kid

27 Hankering

28 Pack (down)

31 Gun the engine

32 Author Umberto

33 As well

34 Sir Guinness

36 Levy

37 Ticked (off)

38 Decorator's theme

40 "Monopoly" square

41 Baghdad resident

43 Renter

47 Roofing

48 Black Sea

51 Part of TNT

52 Trenches

53 Pop flavor

54 Verily

55 Out of control

56 Lose it

2 Hawaiian city

3 "NFL Live" channel

4 Warm up

5 Eyeglass frames

6 Simile center

7 Lass

8 Lovable

9 "Hi, sailor!"

10 "Fiction"

11 Borscht

16 Curator's focus

20 Belly

22 Buzzless brew

23 Strong as —

24 Bikini top

25 Seminary subj.

26 Catholic prayer

27 Bigfoot's cousin

29 Skier

30 Tommy

35 —

37 Elixirs

39 Pageant crown

40 Jewel

41 — -bitty

42 Exceptional

43 To-do list item

44 Un-signed (Abbr.)

45 The Big Easy acronym

46 Golf hazard

49 Bottom line

50 Judge Lance

Solution time: 24 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 4-19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33

34 35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 37; Kate Hudson, 39; James Franco, 40; Ashley Judd, 50.

Happy Birthday: Honesty and integrity will play important roles in the way things unfold this year. Don't leave important details to someone else. Take charge and be responsible for what transpires. Stay on top of whatever you want to see happen. Greater stability will be required if you want to take a position of leadership. Have a plan and stick to it. Your numbers are 6, 13, 21, 24, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Knowing what you are up against will be half the battle. Plan to go over and above what anyone else can possibly do in order to get what you want. Success takes work and a refusal to quit until you accomplish your objective. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend time cultivating important relationships. Whether at home or at work, getting along with others will make the difference. Don't let stubbornness be what holds you back. The power of positive persuasion will help you get your way. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keeping your facts straight will be important if you want to maintain trust and respect. Question anyone asking you to contribute to something that is being hyped. An offer someone makes will fall short of your expectations. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone will use emotional blackmail to get you to make a change or devote time or money to something you know little about. Proceed with caution if anyone asks you to volunteer or to spend

money on something you cannot afford. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your generosity lead to debt. It's OK to help others, but be sure to put immediate family first. Long hours and hard work will be required if you want to reap rewards. Avoid excess and indulgence. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will mislead you regarding a job opportunity or partnership. Ask questions and stick to facts when discussing matters that can influence your ability to get ahead. Stick close to the people you know you can trust. Romance is highlighted. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful what you share with whom. Discretion will be important if you mix business with pleasure. Don't reveal your intentions prematurely. An unexpected change or decision someone makes will lead to uncertainty. Stay alert, be observant and gather sensitive information. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't trust anyone else to handle your financial affairs or someone else's estate. Unusual circumstances revolving around property, legal or health matters and friends or relatives should be taken seriously and handled with discretion. Personal gains are favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Find an outlet for your imagination, and keep moving in a direction that excites you. Befriending people you feel have more to offer will give you a sense of belonging and encourage you to be the best you can be. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Friendships and dealing with children and relatives should be handled with care. Each situation will require thought and patience. You'll find it easier to resolve issues without conflict if you offer love and support instead of letting anger set in. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider the best way to improve your life. Creating a space to relax or to work on a hobby will encourage you to spend more time at home and less time going to events and activities that are costly. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional situations will fester due to deception or disillusionment. Don't make assumptions or believe everything you hear. Go directly to the source before you make up your mind to dissolve a relationship or to spread information that is damaging. **

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, outgoing and intuitive. You are opportunistic and motivated. (To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9 1 8 4 3 9 1 7 6 7 5 1 5 2

Difficulty Level ★★

4/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5 6 2 7 1 8 3 9 4 8 3 1 2 9 4 6 7 5 9 4 7 5 3 6 2 1 8 2 5 6 3 7 9 8 4 1 4 8 3 1 6 5 9 2 7 1 7 9 8 4 2 5 6 3 3 1 5 9 2 7 4 8 6 7 2 4 6 8 3 1 5 9 6 9 8 4 5 1 7 3 2

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JOHNNY BOWER (1924-2017)

Solution: 10 letters

E M A G R E Y A L P J R C H T T S E B S T I C K T O E A O H L E A C T A R M Y E H W R C E E R O E K I S Z K A N O E K C F U B D R A F T L M N B E E H T G C O A C H L G T Y A R Y I O I R S P E S T O A N R O C N P F E U I T D M A L T B N N A T E C K A C A A L Y E A O A W I K O R I P T I I L E R H N A E O R N L A E L E H R A O I L R M D E E T A L E N T H M A L C Y A R A L L I K S S L E R E U P G F F N I W E T E L H T A S T A T S T A T U E A W A R D

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AHL, All-Star, Army, Athlete, Award, Barbara, Best, Betty, Bower, Career, Cindy, Coach, Crease, Date, Draft, Fame, Figure, Game, Goalie, Great, Hockey, Home, Honor, Johnny, Kiskan, Lead, Leafs, Left, Nancy, NHL, Player, Puck, Record, Rookie, Scout, Skill, Stats, Statue, Stick, Street, Talent, Team, The China Wall, Top Tier, Toronto Maple, Train, William, Win

Yesterday's Answer: Sweepstakes

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT INVESTIGATOR

Opening Date: 04/18/18
POSITION: Investigator

Closing Date: 05/18/18
EXAMINATION NO. OPA-18-001

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No. 2018-005

Opening Date: April 19, 2018

Closing Date: May 21, 2018
Time: 4:30 P.M.

Salary: \$23,394.03 to \$27,081.51 - per annum • PL 10-01 to PL 10-04

1 - APPLIANCE TECHNICIAN I

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857

Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856

Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT AMENDED

Opening Date: **March 30, 2018**

Closing Date: **April 20, 2018**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1. COMPLIANCE AGENT	Compliance	\$32,000 - \$37,000	CCC-2018-A
2. PERMIT & LICENSING OFFICER	Permit & Licensing	\$27,000 - \$32,000	CCC-2018-B

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24.

Requirements:

- Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
- Resume** with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
- Police Clearance** (within the last 3 months)
- Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Red Sox oust Angels' Ohtani early for easy win



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani

developed a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand nine days ago during his second start for the Los Angeles Angels.

The rookie right-hander thought it had healed enough for him to pitch effectively when he took the mound again Tuesday night in front of a sellout crowd eager to see Ohtani's next incredible feat.

Instead, the blister and the powerful Boston Red Sox were far too much to overcome.

Mookie Betts led off with the first of his three homers, and the Red Sox chased Ohtani after just two innings in a 10-1 victory over the Angels.

Ohtani (2-1) yielded four hits and three runs on 66 pitches before exiting with a blister on his pitching hand. The two-way Japanese sensation couldn't throw his breaking pitches for strikes, and the Red Sox jumped on him, starting with Betts' full-count homer on a low, 97 mph fastball.

Indians 6, Twins 1

In Puerto Rico, Francisco Lindor homered in his native Puerto Rico, Corey Kluber allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings and the Cleveland Indians beat the Minnesota Twins in the first regular-season game on the island commonwealth since 2010.

Michael Brantley and Jose Ramirez each had three hits for Cleveland before a sold-out crowd of 19,516 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

Diamondbacks 1, Giants 0

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin lost his no-hit bid on a checked-swing infield single with two outs in the eighth inning but finished a one-hitter to lift Arizona.

Corbin (3-0) walked one



but otherwise was cruising toward what would have been the franchise's third no-hitter. Brandon Belt ended it with a softly hit ball to the left side of Arizona's shifted infield, beating shortstop Nick Ahmed's throw by a step to send a groan across Chase Field.

Blue Jays 11, Royals 5 Blue Jays 4, Royals 3

In Toronto, Luke Maile singled down the right-field line off Brian Flynn (0-1) with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to complete a doubleheader sweep. Toronto has swept all three doubleheaders at its retractable-roof stadium, which opened in 1989.

Marlins 9, Yankees 1

In New York, J.T. Realmuto hit a three-run homer off Masahiro Tanaka (2-2) in the fifth inning and drove in four runs in his season debut after com-

ing off the disabled list.

Jarlin Garcia (1-0) gave up one hit in five shutout innings, overcoming five early walks to win for the first time as a starter.

Tigers 4, Orioles 2

In Detroit, Victor Martinez homered for the first time since Aug. 18, a two-run drive in the second off Andrew Cashner (1-2), and Detroit stopped a five-game losing streak. Jeimer Candelario hit a tiebreaking triple in the fifth for Detroit.

Francisco Liriano (2-1) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Adam Wainwright (1-2) outpitched Tyler Chatwood in frigid conditions at Wrigley Field, where the gametime temperature was 35 degrees and a 10 mph wind made it feel like 29.

Wainwright allowed an un-

earned run and four hits as St. Louis won its fifth straight, and he improved to 11-2 in 24 games at Wrigley. Matt Carpenter had two hits and three RBIs.

Rockies 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Chad Bettis (3-0) allowed five hits in 7 1/3 innings and combined with three relievers on a five-hitter on a snowy night with a first-pitch temperature of 34 degrees. The announced attendance was 8,869, but there appeared to be fewer than 2,000 fans at PNC Park.

Wade Davis pitched a perfect ninth for his NL-leading eighth save.

Rangers 7, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Matt Moore (1-3) allowed an unearned run and five hits over seven innings and struck out six in his first start against his former team.

Moore (1-3) went 39-28

with Tampa Bay before being dealt to San Francisco in 2016 and was acquired by Texas in December.

Nationals 5, Mets 2

In New York, Gio Gonzalez (2-1) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings and improved to 11-1 at Citi Field.

A day after Washington topped the Mets with an eighth-inning rally that overcame a five-run deficit, Bryce Harper put the Nationals ahead early with a sacrifice fly. The Mets lost back-to-back games for the first time under new manager Mickey Callaway.

Brewers 2, Reds 0

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit a two-run homer in the

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani gestures while pitching against the Boston Red Sox during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 17, 2018, in Anaheim, Calif.

sixth off Sal Romano (0-2).

Dan Jennings (2-0) got one out in the relief of starter Junior Guerra. Josh Hader pitched two innings for his second save, completing a four-pitcher three-hitter.

Phillies 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Rhys Hoskins hit a tiebreaking, two-out, two-run double off Jose Ramirez (0-2) in the 10th and Maikel Franco added another two-run double.

Hector Neris (1-1) pitched a scoreless ninth before 17,913, the second-smallest crowd at 2-year-old SunTrust Park.

Athletics 10, White Sox 2

In Oakland, Jed Lowrie marked his 34th birthday with a go-ahead home run in a five-run first inning. Trevor Cahill pitched seven scoreless innings in his season debut and Oakland beat the Chicago on the 50th anniversary of the A's first game at the Coliseum.

Astros 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Lance McCullers Jr. matched his career high with 11 strikeouts over seven innings of one-hit ball. Brian McCann hit a tiebreaking two-run home run and Houston beat Seattle.

McCullers was outstanding in a bounce-back effort after allowing a career-high eight earned runs in his last start against Minnesota.

Browns still undecided on QB for No. 1 pick



CLEVELAND (AP)—As the NFL draft nears, the Cleveland Browns are still

doing their homework on quarterbacks.

The final exam is quickly approaching, but the No. 1 pick remains an unknown to everyone, including coach Hue Jackson.

On Tuesday, Jackson dismissed reports that general manager John Dorsey has settled on a quarterback and said the top prospects—Southern California's Sam Darnold, Wyoming's Josh Allen, Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield and UCLA's Josh Rosen—remain in contention to be selected by the Browns.

"I think they all are (in the mix) today," he said. "I think we haven't settled on that yet."

Coming off a 0-16 season, the Browns, who haven't been able to adequately fix their quarterback problem for years, are being thorough in their evaluation of what is considered a very strong QB class.

Jackson and Dorsey have attended pro days and private workouts and the team has hosted the top four quarterbacks, along with 2017 Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson, at its headquarters in Berea, Ohio.

Jackson insists Dorsey hasn't made up his mind on the top choice.

"When I say this I mean it, John Dorsey and his group,

they don't come up for air," Jackson said. "This is 24 hours, seven days a week, through the weekend. I've worked more on the weekends here than I ever had to be a part of this. That's what John does. There's no detail that we're going to leave unturned. So there's a lot of time being spent to get this right."

The Browns' diligence and secrecy hasn't slowed a daily assault of mock drafts and guesses as to what the team might do.

Jackson said he blocks out all the noise, and chuckled at a report that Dorsey was favoring Allen.

"Everywhere you turn, that's what everybody is talking about," he said. "I'm not

concerned about those things because I know what goes on here in the building every day. I talk to John Dorsey three, four, five times a day. I think all kinds of things get said. I mean, I laughed at that. When I say John Dorsey goes dark, he goes dark.

"Whoever thinks they're finding John Dorsey, trust me, you're not finding him. So I think there are a lot of things that get said that I know aren't true. And if there was a consensus that John would've come to at this point, he would've told me. So I know that's not the case."

And while his boss hasn't made a decision, Jackson, too, remains noncommittal on who Cleveland should select.

Alleged plot to disrupt World Cup foiled

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's chief prosecutor says law enforcement agencies have thwarted an alleged plot by right-wing soccer fans to derail events at the World Cup.

Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika's report to the upper house of parliament says the suspected organizers—described only as "extremists"—envisaged engaging members of the radical soccer fan group T.O.Y.S. to disrupt World Cup events in the city of Samara on the Volga River.

Chaika's report released by the Tass news agency on Tuesday didn't elaborate on the actions the perpetrators planned to take.

The radical nationalist group was outlawed by a Russian court last year on charges of fomenting



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

extremist sentiments. Known for its hard-line nationalist views and conflicts with other fan groups, T.O.Y.S. is a faction of fans of the second-tier club Krylya Sovetov Samara.

Local media reported last year that a leader of T.O.Y.S., Evgeny Gavrillov, was given a suspended prison sentence and banned from attending football games after being accused of propagandizing far-right ideology. Members of the group reportedly have also been accused of attacking migrants.

Samara is one of 11 host cities for the June 14-July 15 tournament and will host six games, including a quarterfinal.

Russia, Colombia, Senegal and Australia are among the teams due to play there in the group stage.

Celtics roll past Bucks, take 2-0 lead in series



BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics knew they'd need their younger players to step up this postseason with Kyrie Irving sidelined for the postseason.

They have, and it's added up to 2-0 lead in Boston's first-round matchup with Milwaukee.

Jaylen Brown had a playoff career-high 30 points and the Celtics pulled away into second half to earn a 120-106 win over the Bucks on Tuesday night.

Terry Rozier added 23 points. Game 3 is Friday in Milwaukee. The Celtics led by as many as 20 in the fourth quarter as their ball movement overwhelmed the Bucks.

Brown, who is in his second year, said right now the Celtics are feeling "confident as ever."

"People have been writing us off all year. And we just keep proving people wrong. So that's what we're gonna do," he said.

Milwaukee got as close as 107-97 with 4:13 to play. But the Celtics responded with an 11-2 run, capped by a banked in 3-pointer by Brown to push their lead back up to 118-99.

Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Khris Middleton added 25 points.

"I think as a team we didn't show up tonight," Antetokounmpo said.

Turnovers were an issue for the second straight game for Milwaukee. The Bucks finished with 15, leading to 21 Boston points. They also shot just 41 percent from the free-throw line (7 of 17).

"They were just the more desperate team tonight again," Middleton said. "We started off poorly again. ... We've just got to more into it, got to be the more desperate, hungry team."

Boston had just three turnovers through three quarters and only seven on the night. Rozier finished no turnovers for the second straight game.

"I've just got that confidence," Rozier said. "My teammates, my coach, they trust in me to get everybody in their spots to run the plays. ... I'm gonna do what I can to protect the ball and get my guys open."

The Celtics' bench also came up big, outscoring their Milwaukee counterparts 41-25. Marcus Morris led Boston's reserves with 18 points. Shane Larkin chipped in 11 points, scoring in double-digits for the first time in a playoff game.

He also had a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter that gave Boston a 15-point cushion entering the final period.

Brown said he is expecting to



Milwaukee Bucks' Jason Terry (3) and John Henson (31) battle Boston Celtics' Greg Monroe (55) for a loose ball during the third quarter of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Boston, Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

Beal had more fouls in the first half (three) than made baskets (two).

"We need him," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "We're going to have trouble beating this team if he doesn't play better."

Pelicans 111, Trail Blazers 102

In Portland, Jrue Holiday had a career playoff-high 33 points and the New Orleans Pelicans took a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series against the Portland Trail Blazers with a victory on Tuesday night.

Rajon Rondo had 16 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Pelicans, who host the Blazers on Thursday as the series shifts to New Orleans. Anthony Davis added 22 points and 13 rebounds.

CJ McCollum, who struggled with backcourt teammate Damian Lillard in the opener, rebounded with 22 points to lead the Blazers.

Portland trailed by as many as 11 points in the third quarter but Lillard hit a 3-pointer and added a free throw to tie the game at 93 with 7:31 left. Holiday's pull-up jumper and Rondo's driving layup kept the Blazers from pulling ahead.

Maurice Harkless dunked and Al-Farouq Aminu had a layup to re-tie the game at 97. After Holiday's hook shot, Harkless made a 3-pointer to give Portland a 100-99 lead.

Nikola Mirotic and Holiday each hit 3-pointers to put the Pelicans back in front 105-100 with 1:35 remaining and Portland couldn't catch up. Fans at the Moda Center booed at the final buzzer.

Lillard finished with 17 points for the Blazers, who were hurt in the third quarter when starters Jusuf Nurkic (left leg) and Evan Turner (right toe) left the game.

The third-seeded Blazers, in the playoffs for the fifth straight year, dropped the first game against the Pelicans 97-95, becoming the highest seed to lose at the start of the opening round.

Davis had 35 points and Rondo had 17 assists to tie the franchise record. Lillard and McCollum combined to shoot just 13 for 41 in the opener.

Portland got a boost in Game 2 with the return of Harkless for first time since he had a minor procedure on his left knee in late March. He missed 11 games.

see a much different Bucks team as the series shifts to Milwaukee.

"We not taking anybody lightly," he said. "I know they're going to come out and make adjustments."

Raptors 130, Wizards 119

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan's big game put the Toronto Raptors in a place they've never been before: up 2-0 in a playoff series.

DeRozan matched his career playoff-high with 37 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 19 points and 14 rebounds and the Raptors beat the Washington Wizards, as Toronto took a 2-0 lead in a playoff series for

the first time in franchise history.

"I didn't go out there planning to score 37 points, I went out there to be aggressive," DeRozan said.

Kyle Lowry had 13 points and a career playoff-high 12 assists as Toronto set team playoff records for points in a quarter, a half, and a game.

C.J. Miles scored 18, Delon Wright had 11 and Serge Ibaka 10 for the Raptors, who snapped an NBA-worst 10-game losing streak in Game 1s with a 114-106 win on Saturday.

DeRozan, whose 37th point came on a friendly roll on a fourth quarter free throw, equalled his total from Game

3 of the second round against Cleveland last year. It was his 12th career 30-point game in the postseason. The Raptors are 9-3 in those games.

"I thought DeMar was super on the offensive end," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "We needed every point. He did an excellent job of reading what the defense was doing to him and making them pay."

Lowry called DeRozan "an MVP-type caliber player."

DeRozan missed his first two shots but connected on 14 of his final 21 attempts, including three of six from long range. He also converted a four-point play.

"When he's making 3's,

he's very tough to guard," Washington's John Wall said of DeRozan.

Toronto, which made a team playoff record 16 3-pointers Saturday, connected on 13 of 35 from long range in Game 2, making only two in the second half.

Wall scored 29 points, Mike Scott had a career playoff-high 20 and Ty Lawson 14 for the Wizards, who host Game 3 on Friday night.

"We're the team that's in the hole, we're the team that's desperate, but we have a lot of confidence," Wall said. "We're not down on ourselves at all."

Wizards guard Bradley Beal missed eight of 11 shots and finished with nine points.

Clippers planning trade package for Leonard

The Los Angeles Lakers are floated as a possible landing spot for almost every star player these days, but don't write off their Staples Center roommates in a potential Kawhi Leonard sweepstakes. A person with knowledge of the situation said the Los Angeles Clippers are planning a trade package for Leonard in case the San Antonio Spurs ultimately decide to deal the polarizing forward this summer.

It's been a very weird season for Leonard, considered one of the best two-way

players in the NBA. He once seemed like a lock to sign a five-year, \$219 million contract extension with San Antonio this July, but he has been sidelined since Jan. 13 with a mysterious quadriceps injury, despite being cleared by the Spurs' medical team, and it's seemingly causing friction within the organization. Leonard is expected to miss the remainder of the NBA postseason, so there's a chance he has played his final game with the Spurs.

There will be no shortage of interest in Leonard if the

Spurs field offers for the two-time All-Star, but the Clippers are an intriguing possibility. Landing Leonard, who grew up outside of Los Angeles in Moreno Valley, hails from San Diego State and is known to be a favorite of Clippers consultant Jerry West. He would be well worth the hefty price it would take to get him. Maybe the Clippers offer their two first-round picks in this June's draft, and whatever combination of other talent the Spurs want in return. And suddenly, they're back in Western Conference con-

tention again.

The Boston Celtics are another team that has been linked to Leonard on several occasions in recent weeks, largely because they're on the cusp of contending for an NBA title and they have the type of assets the Spurs might find attractive. Of course, that's mostly been speculation, though, whereas report suggests the Clippers already are doing their homework. Leonard, who turns 27 in June, was limited to just nine regular season games this season.

Black Ball nips Marianas Water in Tuesday League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 9 Eleven Str8 Black Ball squeezed out a 7-6 decision over Marianas Water last week to join their sister team at third place in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The win improved Black Ball's record to 70-47, which is the same mark of Marianas Water as they stay close behind the 73-44 slate of Brannon's Docomo Hustlers. Idle Amari's IT&E Destroyers are on top at 83-34. The 9 Eleven Wildboyz (68-49), Beach Beer Masters Touch (66-51), and Brannon's

670 Builders (38-79) complete the standings.

Rey Hermogenes and Mervin Sahagun clinched the important win for the Black Ball when they defeated Roel Barto and Rodel Dela Cruz in the final Partner's 8-Ball event.

The Masters Touch trounced the Builders, 8-5, while the Hustlers dumped the Wildboyz, 9-4, in the other Tuesday League matches.

In last week's Thursday League, the 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball won the last four games to complete a 9-4 decision over the Brannon's Jam Shooters.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Sands Team SCS and Amari's Intensity 8 pose for a group photo before their game in last week's Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Contrasting wins for 670 Sonics, Akkeri

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics rolled to their third straight victory, while the 670 Akkeri made it two in a row as they defeated their respective opponents in the men's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League.

The 670 Sonics crushed the Genesis All-Stars, 103-82, last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while the 670 Akkeri edged the Saints last Friday, 67-62.

Fred Litulumar scored the 670 Akkeri's last two field goals to help the team get its second consecutive win after losing its debut (against the 670 Sonics) early this month. Litulumar was one of the three 670 Akkeri players to finish in double figures after drilling 14 points. Ben Lisua tallied 12 markers, while Prince Factor registered 10.

Jason Palacios paced the Saints with his 14 points.

In the 670 Sonics versus Genesis-All Stars tiff, the former led right from the get-go en route to the 21-point win.



JON PEREZ

The 670 Akkeri's Kyle Rios, right, tries to get away from the defense of the 670 Sonics' Sean Rabasto, center, during their game in the men's division of the MIBF island-wide caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics built a 30-14 advantage after the first quarter behind the 8 points each of Bryan De Guzman and Paulo Rafols. The

winning squad's lead ballooned to 20 at the break, 56-36, as they waxed hot

from downtown, knocking in five triples—two came from Jack Aranda.

The 670 Sonics' advantage went down to 17 at the end of the third period, however the Genesis All-Stars failed to move closer in the final canto, as Matt Duenas got the job done for their team. Duenas, who was held to 6 points in the first three quarters, dropped 12 in the fourth.

In other results in the men's division, the Ol'Aces kept their undefeated record (5-0) after whipping the Ol'Aces Extras last Monday, 103-74.

N-Nes Siech scored 21 points for the Ol'Aces, while Preston Basa registered 20 markers—18 of them came from the 3-point area. Fred Pelisamen chipped in 14, while Jeff Deleon Guerrero tallied 10.

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces routed the Docomo Rollers in the women's division game, 65-34.

Eleina Santos and Alliyah Fernandez teamed up in the easy win with the former firing 19 points and the latter adding 17. Sylvana Simran was the third Ol'Aces player to score in twin digits with her 12 markers.

The Black Ball remains on top with a 69-35 slate, followed by the Amari's IT&E Homeboyz (63-41), 9 Eleven MJD Warriors (58-46), 9 Eleven Titans (53-41), Sands Team SCS (49-55), Amari's Intensity 8

(46-58), Jam Shooters (44-60), and VFW Assassins (34-70).

Team SCS edged the Intensity 8, 7-6, while the Homeboyz and Warriors scored similar 8-5 wins over the Assassins and the Titans, respectively.

MARINERS

From Page 28

12 hits with three strikeouts and three walks. He shut down the Aces for three innings, from the top of the sixth to the eighth, before being relieved by Nate Camacho when Nokki Saralu was about to bat in the ninth. Flores, before Camacho went in, gave up a leadoff double to Ben Jones and the Aces center fielder scored on a Lamar Iguel RBI triple.

Camacho, a former starting pitcher for the CNMI Senior League division team when Saipan hosted the 2015 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament, pitched the rest of the ninth and retired Saralu for the first out.

Tyrone Omar hit a sharp line drive to right field, but Devyn Flores was there to make the running catch for out No. 2. Camacho struck out Barry Sunumai to end the game.

Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-3 and scored on an Angel Falig error at the bottom of the second, and again reached home plate on a Ton Tenorio sacrifice fly after getting on base on a leadoff single in the fourth.

Flores scored for the Mari-

ners in the first on a Camacho RBI single, while Nate Smith crossed home plate off Kainoa Wanket's single. The Mariners' three other runs were scored in the second inning on errors.

Titanium 20, Outlaws 10

In last Monday's game, Titanium defeated the Outlaws to end their season at 5-4, and keep their opponents winless after eight games.

Juan Tenorio drove in three runs, while Austin Benavente, Brian Camacho, Lucio Kalen, and Joe Palacios had two RBIs each for Titanium, which dropped a 12-9 decision against the Ballistics last week a few days after completing a 14-11 upset over the Aces last April 5.

Tenorio went 3-for-3 with two runs, while Kalen had a triple, went 2-for-3, and scored twice. Palacios had a double and two runs after going 4-for-5, while Benavente only hit 1-for-3, but had three runs.

Isaiah Lizama, who was walked in the fifth, had a triple and four runs after going 3-for-5 to also contribute to Titanium's 17 hits.

HERAS

From Page 28

nis coaches, parents, friends, and Mr. Amrit Rai (recruitment agency) who helped me achieved this great accomplishment. I can say that I'm definitely blessed and thankful for this phenomenal opportunity. I can't wait to excel in my sport, while gaining a degree in the exercise science program. I'm excited for what the future has in store for me," the 17-year-old player said.

Heras will be playing for Dixie State University, which

is located in St. George, Utah and a member of the Pacific West Conference in NCAA Division II along with 13 other schools in California, Hawaii, and Utah. The Trailblazers are coached by Eric Pelton, who has been with the program since women's tennis was added into Dixie State athletics in the 2006-2007 season. Currently, Dixie State holds a 9-8 record and started this month's campaign on a three-game winning streak before losing to Metro State-Denver last April 8.

Heras, in the last five years, was the third female

player from the CNMI to receive an athletic scholarship. Thea Minor was admitted to the New Mexico Military Institute in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I in 2014 before moving up to NCAA Division II with the Henderson State University in 2016. Then last year, it was Mikayla Lopez's turn to play for NMCI. Other notable players who honed their tennis skills here and moved up to collegiate ranks were Ji Hoon Heo, Colin Sinclair, Chris Cajigan, Amami Sakano, and Kana Aikawa.

RETURNEES

From Page 28

ger from outside.

Former CNMI national team member Elias Rangamar will be coaching the group with veteran women's player Connie Camacho, Preston Basa, and John Santos as his assistants.

Rangamar said he met with his assistant coaches last Sunday and they voted separately on who among the candidates will be included in the final roster of 12 players. His assistants were tasked to choose the seven players on island, while he

picked the off-island members.

Rangamar thanked all the players that tried out and made the first cut for the time they spent in attending the practices.

"We thanked the girls that made the time and commitment in showing up to our practices and we wish them the best of luck. We based our selection on experience, athleticism, and potential. Five of the seven players selected are currently attending school in the U.S. We hope to get everybody on the island by early June," he added.

Rangamar's announcement on the final selection for the

women's team came a few weeks after he also picked the members of the men's squad. Basa, Dan Barcinas, Jack Lizama, Douglas Schmidt Jr., Dean Blake, Coby Santos, Jeff Deleon Guerrero, Marvin Ra-bauliman, Aiferson Atan, and Geno Libuw, N-Nes Siech, and Christian Mizer, the lone off-island player on the group, made the cut. Basa, John Santos, and Keith Nabors will help Rangamar handle the men's team.

The CNMI basketball squads will be pitted against the host, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

MP United FC 10th Anniversary

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan gives a message to the attendees of the MP United Football Club's 10th anniversary celebration held early this month at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.



Vivid Blue president and founder Sachiko Tahara, left, presents gifts to MP United Football Club vice president Lydia Tan to express their appreciation to their sister club.



Pastor Eric Abragan, right, joins MP United FC treasurer Rose Soledad for a photo after the former was recognized for his support to the group.



Joseph Villagomez, right, gets a plaque of appreciation for supporting MP United.

Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, right, receives a plaque of appreciation from MP United FC treasurer Rose Soledad.



Kyoung Min Song, right, is handed a plaque of appreciation.



A Kanoa Resort staff, right, receives the plaque of appreciation on behalf of their hotel, which is one of the supporters of MP United FC.



Players, coaches, parents, and guest watch a video presentation during MPU's anniversary celebration.



Red Sox oust
Angels' Ohtani
early for easy win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Celtics roll past
Bucks, take 2-0
lead in series

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heras moves up to collegiate ranks

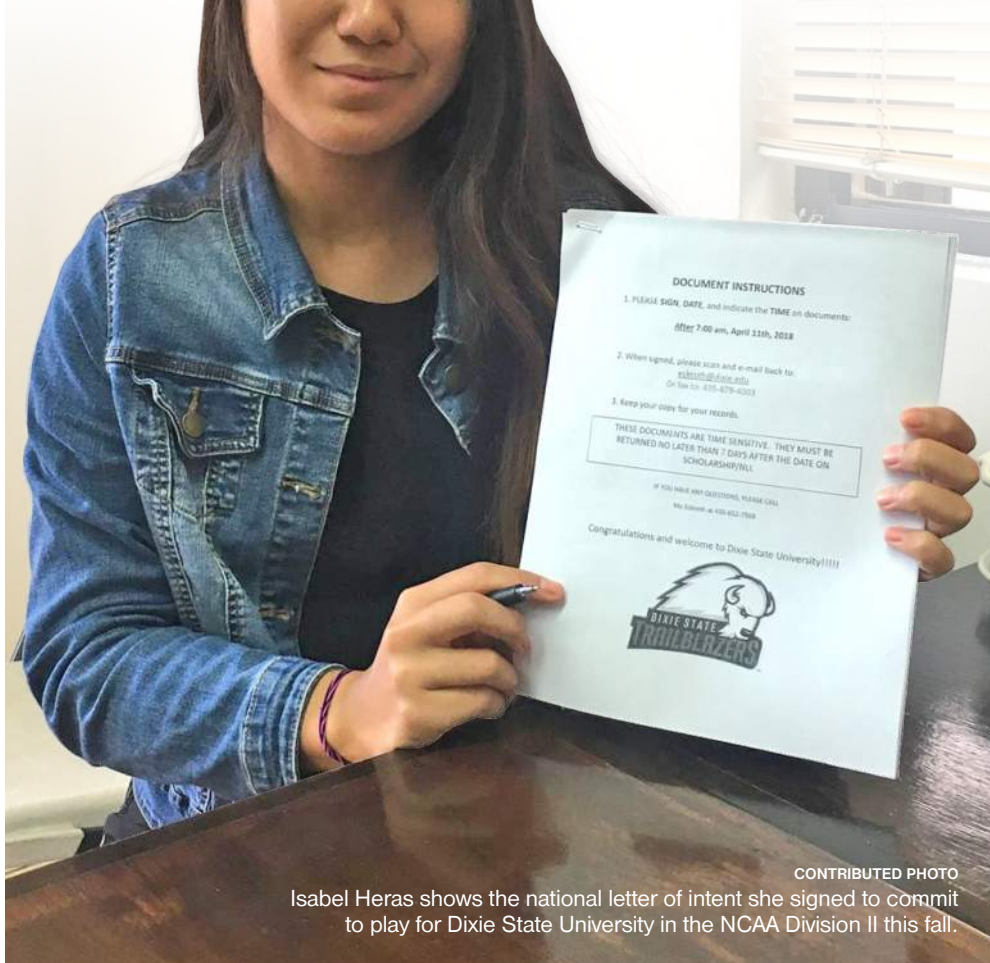
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isabel Heras has committed to play for Dixie State University on an athletic scholarship, joining the growing list of CNMI junior tennis players who have earned a chance to see action in collegiate leagues.



Heras signed her national letter of intent yesterday and will be suiting up for her new team this fall. "This signing has definitely helped me realize that hard work pays off in the long run," said the Marianas High School senior.

"Playing college tennis has always been a goal for me. I'm so happy and proud of myself for being able to have this big accomplishment. The key to success is the everyday effort of pushing yourself to become a better athlete. With this, I



Isabel Heras shows the national letter of intent she signed to commit to play for Dixie State University in the NCAA Division II this fall.

realized that every decision you make and the amount of effort you put in determine your success," she added.

The Commonwealth play-

ers, who represented the islands in various regional and international competitions, is thankful to her coaches, teammates, and supporters

for helping her make it to the collegiate ranks.

"I want to thank all my ten-

See HERAS on Page 26

Mariners show Aces exit door

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Jonah Flores tossed for 8 1/3 innings, while K.J. Deleon Guerrero scored twice to lead the rampaging Mariners to a 6-4 win over the defending champions Aces in their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Mariners, who was at 2-3 after a 9-3 loss to the Chalan Kanoa Bears on March 21, won four straight to finish the regular season at fourth place (6-3) and secure a playoff berth (regardless if the league decides to go ahead with the Top 4 format or follow a new one). Go See Mark (8-1), the Bears (7-1), and last year's losing finalists Falcons (6-2) are the other playoffs-bound teams.

The slumping Aces (4-4) would be eliminated if SBL sticks with the Top 4 advancing to the playoffs

format, but could still make it to the postseason if managers and coaches agree to have more squads joining the next round of play.

"We're going to know next week how are we going to go forward with the playoffs. It will all depend on the meeting whether we're going to follow the original Top 4 teams or make it the Top 8 teams. But right now, the Aces are already out," said Rogolifoi.

The make-or-break meeting will be held on April 23.

The Aces will have their last game in the regular season tomorrow when they face the Ballistics in a re-scheduled match that was originally set last March 29. The game was called off in observance of Maundy Thursday.

In the Aces-Mariners game, Flores was tagged with three earned runs on

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Returnees lead women's cage team

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Five returning players will be leading the CNMI's charge in

the 9th Micronesian Games set from July 15 to 27 in Yap.

Rachel Abrams, Jamie Mendoza, Irish Pagarao, Ira Palero, and Lia Rangamar are again

back to don the CNMI colors in the quadrennial Games to be held for the third time in FSM. The Micro Games took place twice in Pohnpei—in



Palikir in 2002 and in Kolonia in 2014. This will be Yap's first time to host the region's premier sporting event.

Cassandra Camacho, sisters Eilena and Annalei Santos, Alliyah Fernandez, Tazha Deleon Guerrero, Glorily Williams, and Jan Travilla are the other members of the team. The squad has a mix of shooters, slashers, and bigs with Annalei Santos, Abrams, Camacho, Deleon Guerrero, and Palero expected to patrol the shaded lane for the CNMI. Eleina Santos, Rangamar, and Williams will be tasked to orchestrate their plays, while Fernandez, Mendoza, Pagarao, and Travilla must be ready to pull the trig-

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JON PEREZ

Annalei Santos, left, and Madi Alegre perform some passing drills in one of the practice sessions of the CNMI women's national training pool last February at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ

Nate Camacho pitches the last inning for the Mariners during their game against the Aces in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.